

## Vic CFCC Network minutes – 2 June 2017

### Topic: Policy: Child Safe Standards (CSS) – Standard 7 – Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children

#### MAV Update:

- MAV have some article on their website from other LGA's to support CSS – City of Melbourne & Banyule
- They will make more information available as it comes to hand
- Keep checking the Commission for Children and Young people website for updates about the CSS

#### CFCC advisory group update:

- Presented at Whittlesea Conference – great attendance and good discussions. Positive feedback
- Article in Preschool Matters – term 2 edition. [https://elaa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PSM-T2-2017\\_P4.pdf](https://elaa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/PSM-T2-2017_P4.pdf)
- Advisory group will be reviewing work plan – including updating toolkit and any further information relating to the Charter

#### World Forum:

- Sam presented on the World forum Education and Care held in New Zealand
- Amazing opportunity to hear and meet people from all around the world that are working, advocating, researching and protecting children.
- Provides a great opportunity to join working group and access resources and join global conversations on early care and education issues.
- <https://worldforumfoundation.org/events/>
- Check out the highlights of the event. They are all great but most notably for me
  - Highlight # 4,5,11,15

This table outlines the **white board summary** that was taken following a group discussion of the following areas:

- Consulting with children about being a child safe organisation
- What information should we give to children in relation to the CSS
- How do we encourage and support children to raise concerns and make complaints

<b>Consulting :- with children &amp; community</b>	<b>Informing: - children and staff training</b>	<b>Reporting</b>
Inner middle councils (total of 5) are considering pooling resources to employ a consultant to	City of Melbourne (CoM) 2016 was review. Year One review Corporate Policy and Procedure	The Commission will be monitoring compliance. There will be spot checks but expected that

<p>develop safety resources- focus on communicating/ informing children and young people. Linking CSSs work to Respectful Relationships messages</p>	<p>Eg Working With Children Check (WWCC) for all staff but particularly for those in contact with children. Aiming for 100% staff with WWCC</p>	<p>mostly responding to incidence reports will drive their investigations.</p>
<p>Need to improve our understanding of safety for the 0 - 2 years olds, often most at risk.</p>	<p>CoM training plan for 1700 staff has been implemented. Using work from City of Knox and Learning Seat online training has been provided first to all staff. Have brought in Child Wise. Starting with those in occupational roles training has been rolled out with Child Wise running 27 x 3 hour workshops.</p>	<p>Process can be adapted to different ages to make it easier for children to report. Questions to consider: What can children expect? How do they know what to do? Where are the different places in the community that can support?</p>
<p>Dandenong CC regularly consults with children by annually consulting with 88 primary school children. Video interviews held for youth and early child hood services for feedback on action plans. A smaller group of 8 primary age children from 4 local schools meet twice a term at council. Aged between 10 – 11 (ie years 5 and 6) these children have access to council.</p>	<p>Training can bring up lots of triggers for staff – support needs to be provided.</p>	<p>Councils are looking to develop a process with children – feeling safe and being safe. Also considering cultural safety where services are encouraged to create the right environments for children from different cultural backgrounds.</p>
<p>Dandenong CC and Port Phillip CC have used the Resilience survey. Better understanding of what and how young people are tracking and what makes them feel safe. A report is available to council in a month. Both councils are impressed with the fast turn around. Run by Resilient Youth Australia please see <a href="http://www.resilientyouth.org.au/">http://www.resilientyouth.org.au/</a>  Port Phillip has had good participation and is repeating the survey for the third year</p>	<p>CoM Working group consisted of 14 reps Beyond WWCC there child safety messaging for staff. All people managers have a role in modelling culture change. Senior exec and the CEO participate in training and being involved in training and promotion across council process. The CoM now has a steering committee with reps from Legal, governance and family services involved.</p>	<p>The working group has started (with 25 – 30 participants) to look at the synergies with the Victorian Child Friendly Cities and Communities Charter.- <b>what is this ?</b></p>

<p>Dandenong CC have had some success with 19 primary schools and 11 secondary schools participating for the first time</p>	<p>Issues for staff have been identified in recreation and libraries. CoM also accesses Family Services Funding and therefore has a Child Protection and Wellbeing Coordinator (not all councils access this funding.)</p>	
<p>Understand what you are consulting about – be clear on what you want to talk about, find out, seek input. Ensure processes are in place to feedback to groups – closing the loop.</p>	<p>Dandenong CC has started a Phase 2 roll out of the Child Safety requirements. Sharing information with sports clubs, religious groups and users of council facilities.</p>	
<p>Melbourne CC are looking at creating a symbol that children recognise. Link back to consultations that they are progressing. Working with the Commission and MAV. Use of an app was suggested as a way of connecting with children and young people.</p>	<p>Children and young people understanding their rights ( in the context of the CSS)- right to be and feel safe . what can they do if they don't feel safe, what happens with the information, what can they expect if they seek help</p>	
<p>Councils are aware that is a community responsibility to keep children safe.  Aiming to have open conversations about keeping children safe.</p>	<p>Keeping children and young people in the loop about how organisations/services will keep them safe – what is in place.</p>	
<p>Define safety in the context of the CSS – not road safety or house safety. Acknowledge children's perceptions of safety. Children need to be given the language to</p>		<p>Children need to given/ supported to explain what is happening – right words of body parts, understanding physical changes to their body if something not right. Naming and understanding feelings and how to cope with these.</p>
		<p>Hand print – 5 people you can talk to if you feel unsafe. Doing this is partnership with parents, schools, ELC's</p>