CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING POLICY

The Langwarrin Community Centre is committed to the safety, wellbeing and support of all children and young people in all aspects of operation within our Programs. Services within Victoria are required to comply and adhere to the Child Safe Standards under the Child Wellbeing Safety Act 2005 (Vic). The Victorian Child Safe Standards were reviewed in 2022 with an aim to better align with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations to ensure a greater focus on the safety and wellbeing of all children, improve Aboriginal cultural safety and empower children and young people. The Langwarrin Community Centre is committed to implementing an inclusive and culturally safe environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARD (NQS)

QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY		
2.2	Safety	Each child is respected
2.2.1	Supervision	At all times, reasonable precautions and adequate supervision ensure children are protected from harm and hazard
2.2.2	Incident and emergency management	Plans to effectively manage incidents and emergencies are developed in consultation with relevant authorities, practiced and implemented
2.2.3	Child Protection	Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect
QUALITY AREA 5: RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHILDREN		
5.1.1	Positive educator to child interactions	Responsive and meaningful interactions build trusting relationships which engage and support each child to feel secure, confident and included
QUALITY AREA 7: GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP		
7.1	Governance	Governance supports the operation of a quality service

EDUCATION AND CARE SERVICES NATIONAL LAW AND REGULATIONS	
S162(A)	Child protection training- each nominated supervisor and each person in day-to-day charge and each family day care co-ordinator to have completed the child protection training required or under law for this jurisdiction
S165	Offence to inadequately supervise children
S166	Offense to use inappropriate discipline

S167	Offence relating to protection of children from harm and hazards
84	Awareness of child protection law
155	Interactions with children
168	Education and care service must have policies and procedures
358	Working with children check to be read

OTHER RELEVANT LAWS

Education and Training Reform Act 2006- Child safe standards- Managing the risk of child abuse in schools. Ministerial Order No. 1359
The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012
Failure to Disclose 2014
Failure to Protect 2015
The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)
Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic)
Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic)
Family Law Act 1975
Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015
Children Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic)
Reportable Conduct Scheme

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATED TO CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING

Additional Needs Policy Anti-Bias and Inclusion Policy Bullying, Discrimination and Harassment Policy Delivery of Children to and from Education and Care Premises Child Protection Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Code of Conduct Policy Cyber Safety Policy Dealing with Complaints Policy ECIP Management Policy Family Communication Policy	Interactions with Children, Families and Staff Policy Multicultural Policy Physical Environment Policy Performance Management Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Probation, Induction and Orientation Policy Record Keeping and Retention Policy Recruitment Policy Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy Respect for Children Policy Staffing Arrangements Policy

Governance Policy Information Sharing and Family Violence Reforms (The Reforms) Policy	Writing Reviewing and Maintaining Policies

PURPOSE

Our *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy* will ensure the Langwarrin Community Centre meets all obligations and requirements under the Child Wellbeing Safety Act 2005 (Vic). Our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy will work together with the Langwarrin Community Centre's *Code of Conduct Policy, Information Sharing and Family Violence Policy, Child Safe Environment Policy, Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy* and other related policies, to develop a child safe culture within the Langwarrin Community Centre and Community. This policy will provide direction and guidance for all educators, staff and visitors (including students and volunteers) to comply with and adhere to the 11 Child Safe Standards (2022), to ensure a child safe environment for all children.

The 11 Child Safe Standards aim to create a culture where:

- the safety of children is promoted,
- child abuse is prevented and
- allegations of child abuse will be taken seriously and acted upon.

SCOPE

This policy applies to families, staff, educators, Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, management, students, and volunteers of the Langwarrin Community Centre.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY AND WELLBEING STATEMENT

The Langwarrin Community Centre is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. We understand our responsibilities and statutory duty of care to comply with both the Victorian Child Safe Standards, and the Reportable Conduct Scheme to build our capacity as an organisation to prevent and respond to allegations of child abuse.

The Langwarrin Community Centre is committed to implementing and abiding by our *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy* based on Child Safe Standards in Victoria (2022), which accentuates our *zero tolerance*

for child abuse, and raising awareness about the importance of child safety at the Langwarrin Community Centre and within the Community.

We are dedicated to protecting children from abuse and neglect and promote a child safe environment maintaining children's wellbeing. We adhere to our comprehensive *Child Protection Policy*, standing by our mandatory reporting responsibilities to protect children from physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse and neglect.

We work to ensure there is clear awareness between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour concerning adults and children. We require clear precincts between children and employees, volunteers and the community to maintain children's safety.

We are dedicated to promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal children, cultural safety for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices.

We are committed to ongoing professional development for educators and staff to maintain their ability to distinguish, and respond to situations of abuse and neglect, ensuring educators and staff are responsive to their responsibilities in keeping children safe.

We work in collaboration with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and have confidence in educating children about their right to be safe. We believe in teaching children what to do if they feel unsafe and encouraging them to express their view and thoughts on matters that directly affect them.

As educators we listen to and empower children to act on any concerns, they or others may raise which is reflective in our policies and procedures in keeping children safe.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Langwarrin Community Centre is committed to creating and maintaining an environment that promotes the safety of all children and embeds the Victorian Child Safe Standards. All educators, staff and volunteers are responsible for promoting a culture of safety and wellbeing to minimise the risk of child abuse, or harm to children whilst promoting children's sense of security and belonging.

From 1 January 2023 Quality Assessment and Regulation Division QARD will become the sole regulator of the Standards in the early childhood sector. Every Service in Victoria will have a new condition imposed

on its Service approval that requires the Approved Provider to ensure their service complies with the new Child Safe Standards.

Authorised Officers will be checking compliance with National Law, National Regulations, the Children's Services Act (CS Act) the Children's Services Regulations (CS Regulations), and encouraging continuous improvement over time.

DEFINITIONS

Child/Children refers to both children and young people under the age of 18 years.

Child Abuse refers to a sexual offence committed against a child, an offence committed against a child under section 49M (1) of the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic) such as grooming, physical violence against a child, causing serious emotional or psychological harm to a child, serious neglect of a child (Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005. Vic)

Complaint: Expression of dissatisfaction made to, or about an organisation related to its products, services, staff or the handling of a complaint where a response or resolution is explicitly or implicitly expected or legally required. [AS/NZS 10002:2014 Complaint Management Standard]

Information Sharing Obligations refers to the Child Information Sharing Scheme, and the Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme.

Significant Harm refers to circumstances causing concern for the safety, welfare and wellbeing a child or young person present to a significant extent. This means it is sufficiently serious to warrant a response by a statutory authority irrespective of the family's consent.

What is significant is not minor or trivial and may reasonably be expected to produce a substantial and demonstrably adverse impact on the child's or young person's safety, welfare, or wellbeing. In the case of an unborn child, what is significant is not minor or trivial and may reasonably be expected to produce a substantial and demonstrably adverse impact on the child.

Reasonable grounds refer to the need to have an objective basis for suspecting that a child may be at risk of abuse and neglect based on:

- firsthand observation of the child or family
- what the child, parent, or other person has disclosed
- what can reasonably be inferred based on observation, professional training and/or experience that causes the mandated reporter to believe the child has been abused or is likely to be abused or,
- signs of physical or sexual abuse leading to the belief that the child has been abused

Failure to disclose refers to the failure of a mandated reporter who has reasonable belief that a child under 16 has had a sexual offence committed to them by an adult to make a report to the police.

Failure to protect refers to a person of authority in the organisation who has the power or responsibility, but who negligently fails to reduce or remove the threat of substantial risk of child sexual abuse.

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

In Relation to Standard 1: *Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.*

Through the identification and journey of establishing a culturally safe organisation, the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- show respect and a commitment to reconciliation by developing a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)
- promote cultural safety for Aboriginal children
- will reflect on the current level of cultural competence of our educators and staff
- model and provide guidance to educators and staff to ensure compliance with a zero tolerance of racism within the Langwarrin Community Centre
- build and strengthen our knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and contributions
- attend professional development to support educator and staff knowledge and understandings of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and perspectives
- identify and challenge our own cultural assumptions, beliefs and commitments to cultural competency
- engage with local Aboriginal families and communities through Aboriginal Education Consultative Groups
- invite Elders and Traditional Owners to speak to children, educators, staff and families about the histories and cultures of the local area
- develop an Acknowledgement of Country in collaboration with Elders, community members, children and families which will be displayed, and given during special events and incorporated into the program on a regular basis
- develop awareness and meaningful understanding about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as part of the cultural heritage of all Australians
- encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to access children services

- show sensitivity and respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages by incorporating verbal and visual languages into the Langwarrin Community Centre environment
- ensure our *Anti-Bias and Inclusion Policy* is adhered to, so all children, families, educators and staff are welcomed and treated equitably and with respect
- ensure our *Respect for Children Policy* is adhered to as educators develop positive relationships with children based on respect, and fostering children's self-esteem and development

The Langwarrin Community Centre will reflect and review our cultural practices to determine our journey and stage of cultural competence.

A *Child Safety and Wellbeing Action Plan* has been developed to assist the Langwarrin Community Centre to document our progress and compliance of Standard 1 and identify actions required.

In Relation to Standard 2: *Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.*

In the planning, development and implementation of a *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy,* the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- create and maintain a child safe environment and comply with the Ministerial Order No. 1359 - Child Safe Standards and Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015
- ensure a *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy* is developed, implemented and reviewed with children, families and educators
- complete a self-audit to assess our progress in meeting the requirements of the Child Safe Standards
- develop a Child Safety Code of Conduct specific to the Langwarrin Community Centre and ensure the Code of Conduct is adhered to by all educators, staff and visitors to set behavioural expectations when working with children
- ensure compliance of the *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy* and implementation of the 11 Child Safe Standards within the Langwarrin Community Centre
- include child safety as a regular agenda item at team meetings
- adhere to a zero tolerance for child abuse
- value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers regarding our *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy*
- embed the eleven Child Safety Standards into the Langwarrin Community Centre policies and procedures
- promote the safety of children at all times

- foster a culture of openness and respect where children and adults feel safe to disclose risk of harm to children

In Relation to Standard 3: *Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.*

With a focus on children's rights to safety and participation, the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- listen to and act decisively on any child safety concerns or allegations of abuse that are made
- recognise, respect and foster children's rights where their voices and views are listened to and valued
- promote the inclusion of children's voices in all decisions that affect them
- ensure every child will be equally valued and their individual achievements and learning will be celebrated
- collaborate with children and families to support children's learning
- ensure information about the child's participation in the program is available to the child's family
- view children as active participants and decision makers, working with each child's unique qualities and abilities
- undertake critical reflection practices to reflect upon children's participation within the educational program
- ensure educators and staff adhere to the *Respect for Children Policy* and provide a child safe, comfortable and happy environment where children's concerns are always taken seriously and responded to
- support children's consent by acknowledging and respecting a child's right to refuse or say no
- never force a child to do something against their requests: This includes rest, eat, participation in group experiences and activities
- respond respectfully and appropriately to children's attempts as they participate within the educational program
- empower children to speak up and raise any concerns
- encourage children to develop confidence in their ability to express themselves
- ensure children are aware of how to raise concerns or provide feedback
- respond or report to children about how their feedback has been acted upon
- discuss with children how their photos and images will be used within the Langwarrin Community Centre, or outside of the service and where age-appropriate ask children's permission before taking photos or videos
- ensure all educators, staff and volunteers are committed to identifying possible risk and significant risk of harm to children and young people, and adhere to the *Child Protection Policy*

- ensure the *Behaviour Guidance - Bullying Policy* is adhered to as educators and staff provide support and direction for children to raise concerns
- educate children about protective behaviours through educational programs that are at an age-appropriate level and understanding
- complete a Risk Assessment regarding the implementation of Child Protection Educational Programs
- provide opportunities for children to contribute to the development of the *Service Philosophy* and the Langwarrin Community Centre's Policies and Procedures

In Relation to Standard 4: *Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.*

As we endeavour to inform and involve families and communities in establishing and maintaining a Child Safe approach, the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- ensure new families are provided with a *Family Handbook* during the enrolment and orientation process to share information regarding the Langwarrin Community Centre operations and governance
- ensure all families are welcomed and respected at the Langwarrin Community Centre and are encouraged and supported to participate in decision making
- maintain confidentiality and privacy as per our *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy* when working with children, families and educators in relation to Child Protection matters
- respond to requests for information from Information Sharing Entities (ISEs) to improve children's wellbeing and safety under the Child Information Sharing Scheme
- ensure families are informed of our *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy* upon enrolment through the Family Handbook and orientation process
- ensure families are invited and encouraged to participate in the development and review of the Langwarrin Community Centre Policies and the *Service Philosophy*
- provide regular information about the Langwarrin Community Centre, and ongoing opportunities for families to contribute to our curriculum
- inform families about the processes for providing feedback and making complaints
- encourage families to contribute to the continuous quality improvement progression within the Langwarrin Community Centre through their involvement in the self-assessment and QIP review
- invite families to be involved with the self-assessment process, and be informed of goals developed that form the Quality Improvement Plan (QIP)

In Relation to Standard 5: *Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.*

As we aim to recognise and support diversity and work to promote vulnerable children, the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- ensure a *Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing* is developed to demonstrate a strong culture of child safety within the Langwarrin Community Centre
- work in partnership with families and other professionals to ensure specific consideration, and adaptations allow children with additional needs access and participation and achieve positive learning outcomes
- ensure all children are supported to participate in the educational program
- be responsive to each child, irrespective of their additional needs and abilities
- practice inclusivity and support children with additional needs to enable them to have equitable access to resources and participation of the educational program
- gather information about children's additional needs, cultural background and supports that may be required through the enrolment and orientation process
- support educators to implement inclusive strategies and practices in the delivery of quality education and care
- ensure the educational program and curriculum are inclusive and meet the individual needs of children with additional needs, disability or developmental delay
- create an inclusive program, which is adaptable and supportive of all children
- ensure all children have the right to be treated equally and with respect

In Relation to Standard 6: *People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.*

To ensure suitable educators and staff are employed in line with Child Safe recruitment practices, the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- implement a probation and induction orientation program to ensure new educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities in relation to ensuring children are safe and well within the Langwarrin Community Centre
- ensure comprehensive processes are followed in relation to recruitment of new educators and staff to include a commitment to Child Safe practices
- implement effective pre-employment screening to ensure we engage educators and staff who have the skills, experience, qualifications and general 'fit' in line with legislative and regulatory requirements

- ensure all preferred candidates undergo appropriate pre-employment checks including reference checks, Working With Children Checks (WWCC), immunisation status checks (including COVID-19 vaccination, as required), and National Police criminal history checks before an offer of employment is recommended
- ensure all educators and staff undergo a Working with Children Check (WWCC) which is verified by the Langwarrin Community Centre to ensure it is valid and current
- ensure at least two references are provided for a reference check. Where possible references should be from the immediate previous employer. The reference checks will ascertain, where possible, the applicant's attitudes and behaviours in previous child-related roles, and ascertain whether the applicant has ever been the subject of complaints
- provide an induction process for all new educators and staff including relevant information on child safe practices adhering to the Child Safe Standards, Code of Conduct, strategies that identify, assess and minimise risks to children and mandatory reporting procedures
- ensure comprehensive job descriptions for each position will be available for all applicants, educators and staff members

In Relation to Standard 7: *Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused.*

With a focus on responding appropriately to complaints and concerns, the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- ensure educators, staff and visitors follow and comply with the *Dealing with Complaints Policy* when matters are raised regarding Child Safety and Wellbeing
- follow the *Dealing with Complaints Policy* for procedures regarding receiving and managing informal and formal complaints
- safeguard the interests of all children, their families, educators, staff and visitors, using procedures to ensure appropriate privacy and confidentiality practices are upheld
- ensure educators and staff have a sound understanding of developmentally appropriate sexual development in children and sexual behaviour that may be concerning and requires a response (*See: Dealing with Complaints Policy)*
- inform families about the processes for providing feedback and making complaints
- investigate and document the grievance or complaint fairly and impartially as per the Grievance/Complaints procedure
- keep appropriate records of any complaint investigation and outcome and store these records in accordance with our *Privacy and Confidentiality Policy* and *Record Keeping and Retention Policy*

- notify the Regulatory Authority within 24 hours if a complaint alleges the safety, health or wellbeing of a child is being compromised. Notification must include any incident where there is a reasonable belief that physical and/or sexual abuse of a child has occurred, or is occurring at the Langwarrin Community Centre, or any allegation that sexual or physical abuse of a child has occurred or is occurring at the Langwarrin Community Centre
- ensure the *Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy* is adhered to and ensure that all allegations based on reasonable grounds are reported, including allegations made against educators or staff who do not have direct contact with children, and conduct that allegedly occurred outside of their work
- review complaints and grievances as recorded in the *Complaints and Grievance Management Register* to ensure a pattern of similar grievances is not occurring
- ensure educators or staff will report any concerns they may have about inappropriate actions of any other employee that involves children or young people to management as per the *Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy*

In Relation to Standard 8: *Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.*

In order to demonstrate our commitment to education and training for our educators, staff and volunteers, the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- provide all educators and staff with professional learning for the Child Safe Standards
- ensure Child Protection training is valid and updated every 12-24 months, and whenever significant changes are made to the child protection law or reporting requirements, to maintain skills and knowledge required by National Regulations and best practice
- develop a culture of learning through reflective practice within the Langwarrin Community Centre to drive continuous improvement
- ensure educators and staff participate in professional development to keep up to date with Child Protection *'refresher'* and Child Safe Standards training ensuring currency and compliance
- ensure a person's Working with Children Check is read before the person is engaged as an educator, volunteer or staff member at the Langwarrin Community Centre
- ensure the approved provider has read a person's Working with Children Check before nominating that person as a nominated supervisor or person in day-to-day charge of the Langwarrin Community Centre
- ensure working visitors to the Langwarrin Community Centre are suitable and approved to work with children, including visitors engaged to provide professional development or allied health professionals

In Relation to Standard 9: *Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.*

As we develop a commitment to providing a safe physical and online environment for children, the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- ensure that the premises and facilities are designed and maintained to facilitate adequate supervision of children at all times while maintaining the rights and dignity of all children
- ensure risk assessments are completed to contribute to the development of identifying, preventing and reducing risks of child abuse and harm
- strongly oppose any type of abuse against a child and endorse high quality practices in relation to protecting children
- ensure no child being educated and cared for by the Service is subjected to any form of corporal punishment or any discipline that is unreasonable in the circumstances (S.166 National Law)
- ensure all educators, staff and visitors understand their roles and responsibilities in protecting children from abuse and neglect, and maintain up-to-date knowledge of child protection law
- ensure educators and staff undertake child protection awareness training every 12-24 months, and whenever significant changes are made to the child protection law or reporting requirements
- assess and manage the risk of abuse to children as part of our daily practice
- work with an ICT security specialist to ensure the latest security systems are in place to ensure best practice
- obtain parent permission for children to use computers as part of the enrolment procedure
- ensure that children are never left unattended whilst a computer or mobile device is connected to the internet
- ensure personal mobile phones are not used to take photographs, video or audio recordings of children at the Langwarrin Community Centre
- only use educational software programs and apps that have been thoroughly examined for appropriate content prior to allowing their use by children
- provide parents and families with information about the apps or software programs accessed by children at the Langwarrin Community Centre
- ensure educators and staff participate in professional development regarding online safety
- ensure educators and staff implement and adhere to the *Cyber Safety Policy*
- ensure privacy filters and parental control settings are turned on, and used when children are accessing digital technologies online

In Relation to Standard 10: *Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.*

With a focus on regular review of Child Safe Standards policies and procedures, the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- ensure our *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy* is reviewed each year as part of our cycle of self-evaluation each year
- welcome input and plan consultation from children, families, educators and staff as part of the policy review process
- include the development of a Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) as part of the reflection procedure
- reflect on what current practices and actions regarding Child Safety and additional actions will be included in the QIP
- review the effectiveness of the *Dealing with Complaints Policy* and procedures to ensure all complaints and grievances have been handled fairly and professionally
- track complaints to identify recurring issues within the Langwarrin Community Centre
- reflect and review complaints provided to the Langwarrin Community Centre as opportunities for learning and improvement
- keep a complaints/grievance register to record details of complaints such as complainant details, investigation details, and further action taken
- ensure each policy has a recommended review date stated in the 'Review' section of the policy document, and changes are clearly documented through version control

In Relation to Standard 11: *Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.*

To ensure our policies and procedures demonstrate how the organisation is safe for children, the Langwarrin Community Centre will:

- ensure all policies and procedures will be made available for families and educators to view at all times
- ensure all policies developed will be made in consultation with management, staff, educators and families of children attending the Langwarrin Community Centre
- ensure policies include clear, simple statements and are presented in a logical format
- ensure Risk Assessments are completed to address risks of child abuse and harm, including a supervision risk assessment
- ensure information about our *Dealing with Complaints Policy* is easily accessible to all families

- ensure the name and telephone number of the person to whom complaints can be made is clearly visible at the entrance to the Langwarrin Community Centre
- discuss the issue with the complainant within 24 hours of receiving the verbal or written complaint
- investigate and document the grievance or complaint fairly and impartially
- notify the Regulatory Authority within 24 hours if a complaint alleges the safety, health or wellbeing of a child is being compromised. Notification must include any incident where there is a reasonable belief that physical and/or sexual abuse of a child has occurred or is occurring at the Langwarrin Community Centre, or any allegation that sexual or physical abuse of a child has occurred or is occurring at the Langwarrin Community Centre
- provide information relating to Child Safe practices within our *Recruitment Policy* to ensure our recruitment and screening processes play a vital role in protecting children from harm
- ensure Early Childhood Intervention Practitioners (ECIP) or 3rd party visitors to the Langwarrin Community Centre follow our *ECIP Management Policy* to ensure a Child Safe environment
- ensure any ECIP or 3rd party visitors are made aware of our *Code of Conduct Policy* and child safe policies including the *Reportable Conduct Scheme Policy*

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT/REFLECTION

Our *Child Safe Environment Policy* will be reviewed on an annual basis.

CHILDCARE CENTRE DESKTOP - RELATED RESOURCES

Child Safe Standards - Checklist Child Safe Standards - Commitment Statement Child Safe Standards – Guide	Child Safety and Wellbeing Action Plan Child Safe Risk Assessment VIC

SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia. (2009).

Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012

Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic)

Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (as amended 2014) (Vic)

Commission for children and young people. *Being a child safe organisation* https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/

Commission for children and young people. *Creating a Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy* https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Creating-a-Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy.docx

Commission for children and young people. A guide for creating a Child Safe Organisation https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/A-guide-for-creating-a-Child-Safe-Organisation-190422.pdf

Commission for children and young people. *Short Guide to the Child Safe Standards* https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Short-guide-to-the-Child-Safe-Standards.pdf

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Regulations. (Amended 2023).

Failure to Disclose 2014

Failure to Protect 2015

Family Law Act 1975

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017).(Amended 2023)

Reporting abuse and neglect: https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/cfca-resource-sheet/reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).

State of Victoria (Department of Education and Training). (2017). Early childhood guidance: Identifying signs of child abuse: Identify signs of child abuse

The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)

The Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998

The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012

The Victorian Government. Advice for implementing the Child Safe Standards in early childhood services.

The Victorian Government. Child Information Sharing Scheme https://www.vic.gov.au/child-information-sharing-scheme

The Victorian Government. Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-information-sharing-scheme

Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic)

UNICEF Australian. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child https://www.unicef.org.au/our-work/information-for-children/un-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child

REVIEW

POLICY REVIEWED BY:	Carol Hopkins	CSO	Oct 2025
POLICY REVIEWED	Oct 2025	NEXT REVIEW DATE	Oct 2027
VERSION NUMBER	• V4 10.25		
MODIFICATIONS	• Policy review • Sources checked		
APPROVED BY	• Lindsay Dare		

Signature _____ Date 16_/_10__/_2025__

POLICY REVIEWED BY:	Carol Hopkins	CSO	Dec 2023
POLICY REVIEWED	Dec 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	Dec 2025
VERSION NUMBER	• V3 12.23		
MODIFICATIONS	• Policy review • Updated QARD information for implementing CSS and compliance		
APPROVED BY			
POLICY REVIEWED BY:	Carol Hopkins	CSO	July 2023
POLICY REVIEWED	July 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	July 2024
VERSION NUMBER	• V2 07.23		
MODIFICATIONS	• Policy review • Updated QARD information for implementing CSS and compliance • continuous improvement/reflection section added • Childcare Centre Desktop Related resources section added		
APPROVED BY			
POLICY REVIEWED BY:	Samantha Neeman	Manager	May 2022
POLICY REVIEWED	MAY 2022	NEXT REVIEW DATE	MAY 2023
MODIFICATIONS	• New Policy Developed for Victorian Children's Services		
APPROVED BY			
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS		REVIEW DATE