

# The child safe standards

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The Victorian Government has introduced child safe standards to improve the way organisations that provide services for children prevent and respond to child abuse that may occur within their organisation.

The standards are compulsory for all organisations providing services to children, and aim to drive cultural change in organisations so that protecting children from abuse is embedded in the everyday thinking and practice of leaders, staff and volunteers. This will assist organisations to:

- prevent child abuse
- encourage reporting of any abuse that does occur
- improve responses to any allegations of child abuse.

The child safe standards are a central feature of the Victorian Government's response to the Family and Community Development Committee of the Victorian Parliament's *Betrayal of Trust: Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations* (Betrayal of Trust Inquiry).

## The child safe standards are as follows:

To create and maintain a child safe organisation, an applicable entity to which the standards apply must have:

**Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements.**

**Standard 2: A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety.**

**Standard 3: A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.**

**Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel.**

**Standard 5: Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.**

**Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse.**

**Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.**

In complying with the child safe standards an applicable entity to which the standards apply must include the following principles as part of their response to each standard:

- **promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children**
- **promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds**
- **promoting the safety of children with a disability.**

[http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0005/955598/An-overview-of-the-Victorian-child-safe-standards\\_20170324.doc](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/word_doc/0005/955598/An-overview-of-the-Victorian-child-safe-standards_20170324.doc).