



Appendix 1c

15.1 Review of Council Policies


CP045 Child Safety Statement

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Wednesday 27 July 2022 at 7:00pm

Queenscliff Town Hall

COUNCIL POLICY

Child Safety Statement	Adopted By Council:	24/05/2018	
	Date/s Revised:	17/02/21, 27/07/22	
	Next Review Date:	07/26	
	Document No:	CP045	
	Directorate:	Community	
	Responsible Officer:	Community Services Officer	

CONTEXT

In response to the Betrayal of Trust Inquiry (Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations), the Victorian Government has introduced compulsory minimum standards for organisations that provide services for children to help protect children from abuse.

The Victorian Government has now introduced new Child Safe Standards which came into effect on 1 July 2022. The eleven new Standards replace the seven standards and principles that were previously adopted.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this statement is to affirm the Borough of Queenscliffe's commitment to child safety in the delivery of Council services and activities.

DEFINITIONS

Child means a person under the age of 18 years

Child abuse means sexual abuse (including grooming, with the intent to sexually harm a child), physical abuse or violence, psychological or emotional abuse and neglect

STATEMENT

The Borough of Queenscliffe is committed to the management of child safety in providing Council services and conducting its activities. This commitment includes:

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

Standard 2: Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture

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

Standard 4: Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing

Standard 5: Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice

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

standard 7: Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused

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

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

Standard 10: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved

Standard 11: Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This statement will be reviewed on a continuous basis, but as a minimum every four years from the date of adoption.

OTHER REFERENCES

Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/the-child-safe-standards/>

END