



CHILD & YOUTH SAFETY

Statement of Commitment

VPG is committed to the safety, wellbeing, and empowerment of all children accessing our programs and services including Indigenous children, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability,

VPG has a zero tolerance approach to any form of child abuse. We aim to create a culture of child safety that reduces the opportunity for harm and gives staff a clear process to follow when someone raises concerns about child safety or reports abuse.

Our Child Safe Commitment Statement applies to all employees, volunteers and contractors.

Statement of commitment to the child safe standards

The organisation is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and, as such, is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe organisation.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse and are committed to actively contributing to a child safe organisation where children are protected from abuse.

Our commitment to the safety of children is based on our duty of care and responsibilities to children and always acting in the best interests of children.

Our commitment will be enacted through the implementation and monitoring of the child safe standards and the Queensland Blue card system.

Our commitment to children

We are committed to ensuring children feel safe, empowered and are taken seriously if they raise concerns in relation to their safety and well-being.

We value and support diversity, inclusion and equality. In acknowledgement of the vulnerabilities of these groups of children, and in accordance with the Child Safe Standards and the Queensland blue card system we particularly support

- The cultural safety of Indigenous Australian Children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- The participation and empowerment of children with a disability, Indigenous Australian children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Our commitment to staff and volunteers

We are committed to ensuring staff, volunteers and contractors, understand that child safety is everyone's responsibility.

We will ensure staff and volunteers are provided with the necessary support to fulfil their obligations in relation to child safety.

We will ensure staff and volunteers are educated in child safety including abuse risks and how to interact and behave with children.

Expectations in relation to behaviour are outlined in VPG's code of conduct.



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Our commitment to ensuring a child safe organisation

Recruitment

We will ensure all staff and volunteers have a current working with children blue card and that there is an appropriate screening process for staff and volunteers that work with children including interview processes, advertisements and selection criteria which clearly demonstrate our commitment to child safety.

Training and Supervision

We will ensure all new and existing employees understand the importance of protecting children from harm. This will be supported through induction, training and professional development.

We will ensure staff understand the process for reporting any child safety issues and are supported by VPG.

Reporting

All allegations and concerns in relation to children's safety will be taken seriously and will be investigated fairly and appropriately.

VPG supports and encourages our employees to proactively report any behaviour deemed to be endangering the safety of children.