

Early Years Policy- Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing

Public Commitment to the Cultural Safety of Aboriginal Children

Macedon Ranges Shire Council kindergartens are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children. We are committed to:

- actively supporting and facilitating participation and inclusion of Aboriginal children, young people and their families within our service
- the safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children
- providing an educational program that strengthens Aboriginal children's culture and identity
- actively supporting and encouraging Aboriginal children to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights
- supporting Aboriginal children and their families to identify as Aboriginal without fear of retribution or questioning
- supporting Aboriginal children to maintain connection to their kinship ties, land and country
- supporting Aboriginal children to be taught their cultural heritage by Elders
- facilitating regular training and education on Aboriginal cultural and cultural safety, establishing policies, procedures, systems and processes to create a culturally safe and inclusive environment and meet the needs of Aboriginal children, young people and their families.

Statement of commitment to child safety

CHILD SAFE STANDARD	OUR COMMITMENT
Child Safe Standard 1 – Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identifies and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued	We are committed to ensuring our service is a place where Aboriginal children feel safe, respected and valued.
Child Safe Standard 2 – Child Safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture	We commit to consider the safety and wellbeing of children in everything we do.
Child Safe Standard 3 – Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously	<p>We commit to engaging with children in the design of key policies and directions and co-developing an ongoing engagement framework to inform and enrich our work.</p> <p>We commit to developing and sharing child friendly information and pathways for children to contact and engage with the service.</p>
Child Safe Standard 4 – Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing	We commit to communicating with communities about our child safety and wellbeing operations
Child Safe Standard 5 – Equity is upheld, and diverse needs respected in policy and practice	We are committed to understanding the diverse circumstances of children and working to ensure this knowledge informs everything we do.
Child Safe Standard 6 – People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice	<p>We commit to reviewing and continuously improving our practices in line with best practice, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> deter and prevent unsuitable people from working or volunteering at our service. ensure that all staff, contractors, volunteers and authorised persons understand and enact their responsibilities to support the safety of children identify and take action to address behaviours and practices that place children at risk of abuse.
Child Safe Standard 7 – Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused	<p>We commit to having clear procedures to inform staff, volunteers, contractors and authorised persons of their obligation to report child safety concerns and processes to do so.</p> <p>We respond to disclosures and allegations of abuse in a trauma informed way that removes</p>

	the barriers to disclosure and manages the risks of further harm to children.
Child Safe Standard 8 – Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ingoing education and training	We commit to ensuring our staff have the skills to keep the safety of children at the centre of everything they do.
Child Safe Standard 9 – Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed	We commit to ensuring our online environment is used in accordance with our Code of Conduct, eSafety and Child Safe Environment and Wellbeing policy and practices. We commit to identifying and mitigating risks to the safety of children in all our operations.
Child Safe Standard 10 – Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved	We are committed to ensuring Child Safe Standards reflect latest research about harm prevention strategies for children and young people
Child Safe Standard 11 – Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people	We are committed to ensuring our policies and procedures are clearly documented and accessible.