



Child Safe Commitment



Calvary Community Care does not tolerate any abuse or neglect of clients and strives to maintain an environment of client and child safety with systems in place to process any concerns regarding client and child abuse, or neglect.

We recognise the moral and legal obligations of mandatory reporting and educate all staff in this expectation.

Our selection and induction processes of new employees includes child safety criteria.

Our existing staff are reminded of their role in maintaining a safe environment for all clients, including children.

We are committed to safety and wellbeing of all clients, including children. Our employees accept the Code of Conduct expectations in respect to child safety.

We respect the cultural and linguistic diversity of all clients.

Background

In 2012, the Victorian Government initiated an inquiry into the handling of child abuse allegations within religious and other non-government organisations, the Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Organisations.

Report: Betrayal of Trust (2014) Victorian Government listed a range of recommendations, including the need

to better protect children when they access services provided by these organisations. As a result the Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme create distinct sets of responsibilities for preventing, and in turn report allegations of child abuse of clients within our organisation.

The Victorian Inquiry has resulted in new legislation for the state.

7 Standards

1. Provide a child safe awareness and culture with in CCC
2. Code of Conduct
3. Clear policies and procedures
4. Recruitment and selection processes
5. Clear processes of reporting suspected client/ child abuse
6. Risk management
7. Empowerment of children





In summary, the three criminal offences of:

- Grooming; which is predatory conduct undertaken to prepare a child for sexual activity at a later time;
- Adults' failure to report criminal child abuse to the police; and
- Failure by those with responsibility within an organisation to remove or reduce a substantial risk that a child may be sexually abused.

Definitions

'Child' refers to anyone under the age of 18 years. 'Abuse' refers to both adult to child abuse and child to child abuse. Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to:

- Physical abuse – when a person purposely injures or threatens to injure a child or young person.
- Emotional abuse – an attack on a child or young person's self-esteem such as bullying, name calling, threatening, ridiculing, harassing, intimidating or isolating the child or young person.
- Family violence – when a family member, partner or ex-partner attempts to physically or psychologically dominate the other.
- Sexual abuse – any sexual act or sexual threat imposed on a child.
- Grooming – predatory conduct undertaken to prepare a child for sexual activity.
- Neglect – where a child is harmed by the failure to provide the basic physical and emotional necessities.

Downloads and resources for more information

1. <http://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/working-child-check-child-safe-standards-and-reportable-conduct-scheme-fact-sheet-word>
2. <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-cultural-safety-aboriginal-children.pdf>
3. <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-safety-children-cult-ling-diverse.pdf>
4. <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-safety-children-disability.pdf>
5. <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme/about-the-reportable-conduct-scheme/#TOC-1>

References:

Report: Betrayal of Trust (2014) Victorian Government
The Crimes Amendment (Grooming) Act 2014
The Crimes Amendment (Protection of children) Act 2014
The Working with children Act 2005 as amended 2014
The child Youth and Families Act (2005) as amended 2007
The child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (child Safe Standards) Act (2015)
<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/safer+communities/protecting+children+and+families/>