

New Victorian Child Safe Standard 2

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

Changes – What's different to our existing framework?

- This standard places a greater emphasis on the importance of the role of leadership, particularly senior leadership, in ensuring child safety and wellbeing.
- It ensures that children and young people have access to information, support and complaints processes that are culturally safe and easy to understand.
- Note the inclusion of 'wellbeing' in the descriptor for this standard. CCYP have defined 'wellbeing' as 'a positive state of physical, mental and emotional health. It generally means feeling safe, happy and healthy more than momentarily.'
- The PSU will need to revise policies to incorporate 'wellbeing' and is currently awaiting guidance from the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited on how 'wellbeing' is to be incorporated into child safe policies.
- Refer to the Self-Assessment Tool (Standard 1).

Implementation hints:

These implementation hints are not an exhaustive list, but are rather practical suggestions for bringing the standards to life within a parish. Some of these hints may not be relevant to your parish context, so you will need to contextualise the suggestions to reflect your parish setting.

- Demonstrate commitment to the accessibility and transparency of your parish's information, support and complaints processes for linguistically and culturally diverse communities by providing translated documents, consulting with the community, and looking at different modes of communication to suit community needs, such as creating safeguarding videos. Request representation of the culturally and linguistically diverse community on the Safeguarding Committee.

- At an appropriate time during Mass, share the Commitment Statement that has been endorsed by parish leadership. For example, before Mass, the Commitment Statement could be shared visually, or it might be read together as a parish community.
- Ensure lines of authority, responsibility and accountability for safeguarding across the parish are clear and communicated.
- Develop, implement and communicate a Code of Conduct.
- Display posters promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.
- Have leaders speak about child safety at Mass in a welcoming and age-appropriate manner. Be mindful of the language that is used in these public addresses, as direct reference to abuse may be confronting to families of young children.
- At senior leadership level, ensure that risk assessment and risk management is focussed on identifying, preventing and reducing risks of child abuse and harm.
- Promote a culture of reporting.
- Prioritise children in decision-making.
- Through your organisational culture, create an environment where it is difficult for abuse to occur.
- Ensure personnel understand their information-sharing and record-keeping obligations.

Links to additional resources:

- [INFORMATION SHEET: Organisational Frameworks for Safeguarding Children and Young People](#)
- [Safeguarding and Wellbeing Policy for Children and Young People](#)
- TEMPLATE: Safeguarding and Wellbeing Policy for Children and Young People—please locate the template on this [webpage](#)
- [INFORMATION SHEET: Parish, Agencies and Entity Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People](#)
- TEMPLATE: Parish, Agency and Entity Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People—please locate the template on this [webpage](#)
- [INFORMATION SHEET: Parish, Agency and Entity Safeguarding Responsibilities](#)
- TEMPLATE: Safeguarding Committee Role Description —please locate the template on this [webpage](#)
- [Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct and Declaration](#)
- TEMPLATE: Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct and Declaration—please locate the template on this [webpage](#)
- [ACSL Implementation Guide \(Standard 1\)](#)
- [CCYP—A Guide for Creating a Child Safe Organisation](#)
- [CCYP—Short Guide to the Child Safe Standards](#)
- [CCYP—Victoria's New Child Safe Standards \(information sheet\)](#)

Where to for support?

You can contact the Professional Standards Unit for support on 9926 5621 / 0448 488 614 or send an email to the team at psu@cam.org.au.

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