

New Victorian Child Safe Standard 3



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

Changes - What's different to our existing framework?

- In contrast to our existing framework, there is a stronger focus in this standard on developing a culture that facilitates the participation of children and young people.
- Organisations are also asked to actively provide opportunities for children and young people to participate and to be responsive to their contributions.
- Refer to the Self-Assessment Tool (Standard 2).

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.

- Develop an approach or plan to consult with children and young people, and to involve them in decision-making in formal and informal ways.
- Brainstorm opportunities for children to express their views and participate in decisions that affect them. Feedback from children influences how your parish operates.
- Use informal discussions or formal questionnaires, surveys and feedback forms to allow children to express their ideas, opinions and concerns. We have seen a number of parishes successfully adopt this strategy.
- Provide children and young people with an information pack when they join a parish, including information about their right to safety and to whom to report concerns.
- Display and promote child-friendly resources (hard copy and/or online), including providing explanations of the code of conduct to children enrolled in your programs, helping them to understand how adults should behave.
- Display child-friendly posters about children's rights and responsibilities, and the parish's commitment to children and young people.
- As part of the parish's risk-management approach, consider and identify opportunities, or missed opportunities, to hear from children and seek their feedback.
- Provide information about support services on parish noticeboards and in parish publications, including the Kids Helpline, family violence services, child protection contact details, the Australian Childhood Foundation, the Commission for Children and Young People, and the [Protecting God's Children](#) resource.

Links to additional resources:

- [INFORMATION SHEET: Empowering Children and Young People](#)
- [INFORMATION SHEET: Encouraging the Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making](#)
- [INFORMATION SHEET: Consulting with Children and Young People](#)
- [INFORMATION SHEET: Establishing a Code of Conduct with Children and Young People in the Parish Context](#)
- [POSTER: Code of Conduct Explanation for Children](#)
- [POSTER: Code of Conduct Explanation for Young People](#)
- [POSTER: Our Commitment to Children and Young People](#)
- [POSTER: Feel Safe and Be Safe at Our Church](#)
- [POSTER: Rights and Responsibilities](#)
- [Safeguarding Framework Resources \(Translated\)](#)
- [ACSL Implementation Guide: Standard 2](#)
- [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 Safeguarding Unit for support on 9926 5621 / 0448 488 614 or send an email to the team at safeguardingunit@cam.org.au.

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