



CHILD SAFE AWARENESS POLICY

PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to reduce the risk of harm and child sexual abuse in our community by encouraging child safe environments to be created and maintained.

The City encourages local organisations to be child safe and ensure children are safe and empowered.

SCOPE

This policy applies to City staff and Council.

DEFINITIONS

City means the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

City staff means employees, volunteers, trainees, work experience students and anyone else who undertakes work on behalf of the City, regardless of whether their work relates directly to children or young people.

Council means the City's governing body comprised of elected members.

Volunteer means any person donating their time to City programs, activities and events.

Abuse: Abuse is an act, or a failure to act, towards or on behalf of a child that may result in harm. It can occur on one occasion or multiple occasions. Sometimes the impact of multiple events leads to harm that becomes cumulative in nature. Types of abuse include physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and neglect.

Child/Children: Means a person under 18 years of age, and in the absence of positive evidence as to age, means a person who appears to be under 18 years of age.

Child Safe Organisation: is defined in the Royal Commission Final Report as one that:

- creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing are at the centre of thought, values, and actions
- places emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children and young people
- creates conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people
- creates conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm, and
- responds to any concerns, disclosures, allegations, or suspicions of harm.

Child safe: For the purpose of this policy, child safe means protecting the rights of children and young people to be safe.

Harm: Harm, in relation to a child, means any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's wellbeing, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance; or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.



Wellbeing: Wellbeing of children and young people includes the care, development, education, health and safety of children and young people.

POLICY STATEMENT

The City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder is committed to supporting the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people, including protection from abuse. This Child Safe Awareness policy is one of the ways the City demonstrates its commitment to being child safe and its zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.

It has been developed in response to recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and recognises that the City is uniquely placed within the community to demonstrate leadership by supporting organisations to be child safe and to protect children and young people from harm and/or abuse. Recommendation 6.12 also states that local governments should designate child safety officer positions from within existing staff profiles.

The City will promote the safety and wellbeing of children participating in City programs, activities and events. Consistent with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, this policy also outlines the City's role in supporting local organisations to be child safe through access to resources, awareness raising and sharing relevant information.

POLICY DETAILS

This policy delivers on the following objectives:

- a) Communities are informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people including protection from harm.

Although the City is not legally responsible for providing oversight of compliance with child safe practices, it will take steps to ensure that City staff and any persons who participate in City programs, activities and events operate in alignment with the Child Safe Awareness policy. The City will develop a process to deliver child safe messages at City programs, activities and events.

- b) Collaboration with the community and our partners promotes the safety, participation and empowerment of all children and young people.

The City has a leadership role in our community to support relevant organisations to be child safe and promote child safe practices. It will connect and support local community groups, organisations, and stakeholders to access child safe resources.

COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS



The City does not have any mandatory obligations it needs to comply with by having this policy in place. However, the following pieces of legislation apply generally to the child safety environment -

- Children and Community Services Act 2004
- Civil Liability Act 2002
- Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003
- Equal Opportunity Act 1984
- Freedom of Information Act 1997
- Local Government Act 1995
- National Principles for Child Safety Organisations
- Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971
- Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003r
- Public Sector Management Act 1994
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Work Health and Safety Act 2020
- Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Amendment Act 2022.

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- Strategic Community Plan 2020-2030
- Public Health Plan 2023-2027
- Access and Inclusion Plan 2021-2026
- Reconciliation Action Plan 2021 - 2023
- Club Development Plan 2023-2026
- Working with Children Check Procedure

DOCUMENT CONTROL		
Responsible department	Community Development	
Date adopted by Council	XXXXXX	
Date of last review	March 2024	Policy developed
Date of next review	June 2025	