

# Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy



<b>Policy Relevant to:</b>	Management, Educators, Team members, families
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	October 2023
<b>Next Review:</b>	July 2025
<b>NQF:</b>	82, 83, 84, 99, 102, 103, 104, 15, 106, 109, 115, 122, 123, 136, 155, 162, 165, 167, 168, 170, S162(A), S165, S166, S167
<b>NQS:</b>	2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 5.1.1
<b>National Law:</b>	162, 165, 166, 167, 358

## Rational

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) outline that children and young people have a right to be safe and cared for, no matter where they are or who they are with. Children have the right to be protected from violence, abuse or neglect. When working with children and young people, it is important to understand children's rights and needs.

We are advocates for children and have a strong commitment to child safety and establishing and maintaining a child safe environment. Children's safety and wellbeing are paramount at our Service. Our Service embeds the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and promotes a culture of safety and wellbeing to minimise the risk of child abuse or harm to children whilst promoting children's sense of security and belonging.

## Purpose

Adventure Patch has a legal and ethical responsibility to provide a safe and friendly environment where all children and young people are respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. Children's and young people safety and wellbeing is paramount, and we aim to take all practical steps to protect children and young people from harm or risk of harm, ensuring a healthy and safe environment. Adventure Patch provides children and staff with an environment free from the use of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.

## Implementation

Under the Education and Care Services National Regulations the approved provider must ensure that policies and procedures are in place for providing a child safe environment and take reasonable steps to ensure those policies and procedures are followed. (Regulation 168, Regulation 170). The National Law requires management to ensure all children being educated and cared for are adequately supervised and every reasonable precaution is taken to protect children from harm and any hazard likely to cause injury.

Our focus is to build a child safe environment which is reflected in our services policies and procedures and understood and practiced by all educators, team members, volunteers and students.

## Adventure Patch's commitment to Safety of Children and Young People

Adventure Patch is committed to being a child safe organisation and endorses the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, placing the protection of children as a priority of our

responsibilities and obligations. The Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission provide guidance for our service to ensure our policies and procedures, strategies and attitudes, ensure children's safety is paramount.

Adventure Patch has a zero tolerance to child abuse, and we are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children. We promote diversity and tolerance and aim to form equitable and positive relationships with children. We ensure children participate in decisions affecting them and listen and respect their suggestions and ideas. We respond to any concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm by reporting to the relevant authorities.

We are dedicated in promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal children, cultural safety for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability. Adventure Patch will not tolerate bullying or harassment. Our priority is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and encourage positive relationships.

## Communication

We aim to build and maintain positive and respectful relationships with children, families and educators of our services and prioritise a child safe environment. We communicate regularly and clearly with all stakeholders and ensure our policies and procedures are available to educators, team members, volunteers, families and children and young people. (Reg. 170). Feedback and evaluation of our policies and procedures is welcomed through surveys, feedback or discussions with management.

## Our Procedures

Our *Providing a Child Safe Environment Procedure* provides further information for our team members and educators in regards to National Principles:

- Code of Conduct
- Participation of Families, Children and Young People
- Recruitment
- Police Checks and Working with Vulnerable People Checks
- Child Protection – reportable guidelines
- Reporting and Responding to General Complaints
- Physical Environment – Supervision and Safety Checklists
- Risk Assessments and Risk Assessment tools
- Emergency and Evacuation procedures
- Arrival and Departure Authorisation
- Online Safety
- Storage of Hazardous Substances
- Equipment, Furniture & Maintenance record

## Continuous Review

To ensure we maintain a culture of continuous improvement, we will ensure our child safe practices are regularly reviewed, evaluated and improved. We aim to ensure all educators

and team members understand and effectively implement our policies and procedures to provide a child safe environment at our services.

We will regularly review and monitor the effectiveness of our Child Safe policies and procedures and invite children, staff members, families and communities to contribute to their development.

Any updates or revisions will be communicated to all stakeholders.

### Related Policies

<p>Adventurous Play Policy Behaviour Guidance Policy Child Protection Policy Arrival and Departure of Children Policy Physical Environment Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Orientation Policy Recruitment Policy Safe Transportation of Children Policy Sleep and Rest Policy Emergency and Evacuation Policy Excursion/Incurion Policy</p>	<p>Injury, Incident, Trauma and Illness Policy Interactions with Children Policy Medical Conditions Policy Nutrition Policy Staffing Arrangements Policy Sun Safe Policy Supervision Policy Technology Policy Water Safety Policy Work Health and Safety Policy</p>
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### Child Safe Standards Legislation / Resources

The Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework will be a legislatively mandated framework comprised of child safe standards and a reportable conduct scheme. The National Principles will be adapted to the Tasmania context where required. Implementation of this framework will commence for ECE services in January 2024.


### SOURCE

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).  
 ACECQA. (2021). Policy and procedure guidelines. *Providing a Child Safe Environment*.  
 Australian Government. Department of Skills. (2022). [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia, V2.0, 2022](#)  
 Australian Human Rights Commission (2020). *Child Safe Organisations*.  
[https://childdsafe.humanrights.gov.au/Child Protection \(Working with Children\) Act 2012](https://childdsafe.humanrights.gov.au/Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012) NSW  
 Children's Health and Safety – An analysis of Quality Area 2 of the National Quality Standard  
 Department of Education NSW Providing a child safe environment  
 Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2011).  
 Guide to the Education and Care Services National Law and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. (2017).  
 Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2020).  
 NSW Department of Education (2021). [Guide to the Child Safe Standards for early childhood education and care and outside school hours care services](#)  
 NSW Government Office of the Children's Guardian *A guide to the Child Safe Standards*. (2020).  
 Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).  
 United Nations Convention of Rights of the Child, (1989). (UNCRC)  
 Work Health and Safety Act, (2011).

### Review History

Policy Reviewed By:	Scott Norris	DCEO	October 2023
POLICY REVIEWED	October 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	July 2025
Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• policy maintenance</li> <li>• hyperlinks checked and repaired as required</li> <li>• Added related policies list</li> <li>• Updated policy in relation to Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework</li> </ul>		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
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### Signed

CEO:	
Manager:	S. Norris