

Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

(Providing Child Safe Environment)



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| Policy Relevant to: | Families, Educators, Team Members, children, and visitors |
| Last Reviewed: | November 2025 |
| Next Review: | November 2027 |
| ECS National Law: | S.2A, S.51 S162(A), S162B, S165, S166, S166A, S167, Part 6A, S188, |
| ECS National Regulation: | r82, r83, r84, r97, r99, r115, r122, r123, r136, r145, r149, r155, r162, r167, r168, r170, r171, r172, r175, r358 |
| NQS: | 2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 5.1.1, 7.1 |
| Legislation / Regulation | The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010 Commission for Children and Young People Act 2016 The Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997 (Tas) Child and Youth Safe Organisation's Framework Family Law Act 1975 Child and Youth Safe Organisation's Act 2023(Tas). Youth Justice Act 1997 (Tas) Registration Working with Vulnerable People Act 2013 (TAS) Reportable Conduct Scheme (Tas) |

Rationale

Adventure Patch is committed to the safety, well-being and support of all children and young people in all aspects of operation within our services. We are required to comply and adhere to the Child and Youth Safe Standards under the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023(Tas)*.

Adventure Patch has implemented the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations to ensure a greater focus on the safety and wellbeing of all children, improve Aboriginal cultural safety and empower children and young people. Adventure Patch is committed to implementing an inclusive and culturally safe environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Purpose

This policy will ensure our services meet all obligations and requirements under the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act (Tas)*. This Policy will work together with our *Code of Conduct, Recruitment Policy, Complaints and Grievances Policy, Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policy* and other related policies to ensure we have child safe culture within Adventure Patch services and community.

This policy will provide direction and guidance for all educators, team members and visitors (including students and volunteers) to comply and adhere with Education and Care Services National Law and Education and Care Services National Regulations and the 10 Child and Youth Safe Standards, and the one Universal Principle, to ensure the service places the safety, health, wellbeing and best interests of children as paramount in all operational decisions, actions and practices.



Our Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy forms part of an integrated framework of child safety policies and procedures that together support a strong child safe culture within Adventure Patch services and community.

The Child and Youth Safe Organisation Framework (Tas) applies to Adventure Patch and its services. It sets clear expectations for how Adventure Patch prioritises and promotes the safety and well-being of children and young people through the introduction of Tasmanian Child and Youth Safe Standards.

The aim of the 10 Child Safe Standards and one Universal Principle is to create a culture where:

- The safety and well-being of children and young people is promoted.
- Abuse and harm to children and young people is prevented and acted upon and reported under our mandatory reporting obligations.
- Benchmarks are created where organisations that engage with children and young people need to meet.
- Organisations that engage with children and young people embed strategies in their day-to-day practice to realise these things.

Definitions

Definitions sourced from ACEEQA (2023)

Child/Children refers to both children and young people under the age of 18 years.

Child Abuse refers to a sexual offence committed against a child, an offence committed against a child, such as grooming, physical violence against a child, causing serious emotional or psychological harm to a child, or serious neglect of a child *The Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997 (Tas)*.

Child Safe Standards: The Child Safe Standards (the Standards) are a compulsory framework that support organisations to promote the safety of children, prevent, respond to and report allegations of child abuse and harm. There are 11 Child Safe Standards.

Code of Conduct: Together with a code of ethics, the code of conduct helps guide interactions between management, educators and staff, as well as informing the service decision-making processes relating to professional standards.

Complaint: Expression of dissatisfaction made to or about an organisation related to its products, services, staff or the handling of a complaint where a response or resolution is explicitly or implicitly expected or legally required. [AS/NZS 10002:2014 Complaint Management Standard]

Duty of Care: refers to your legal responsibility to adequately protect children in care from harm. This common law concept applies to all staff members within any Victorian early childhood service and is usually expressed as “a duty to take reasonable steps to protect children from injury that is reasonably foreseeable.” Victoria State Government (2021).

Information Sharing Obligations refers to the Child Information Sharing Scheme, which is a part of the Tasmanian Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework.

Significant Harm refers to circumstances causing concern for the safety, welfare and well-being of a child or young person present to a significant extent. This means it is sufficiently serious to warrant a response by a statutory authority, irrespective of the family's consent.

What is significant is not minor or trivial and may reasonably be expected to produce a substantial and demonstrably adverse impact on the child's or young person's safety, welfare, or wellbeing. In the case of an unborn child, what is significant is not minor or trivial and may reasonably be expected to produce a substantial and demonstrably adverse impact on the child.

Reasonable grounds refer to the need to have an objective basis for suspecting that a child may be at risk of abuse and neglect based on:

- firsthand observation of the child or family
- what the child, parent, or other person has disclosed
- what can reasonably be inferred based on observation, professional training and/or experience that causes the mandated reporter to believe the child has been abused or is likely to be abused or,
- signs of physical or sexual abuse leading to the belief that the child has been abused.

Failure to disclose refers to the failure of a mandated reporter who has reasonable belief that a child under 16 has had an offence of abuse or neglect committed to them by an adult to make a report to the police.

Failure to protect refers to a person of authority in the organisation who has the power or responsibility, but who negligently fails to reduce or remove the threat of substantial risk of child abuse or neglect.

Risk of Harm refers to when a child is likely to be, is being, or has been abused or neglected.

Implementation

Adventure Patch is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe environment. All educators, staff and volunteers are responsible for promoting 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.

Adventure Patch has a zero tolerance to any type of abuse against a child and endorse high quality practices in relation to protecting children. We adhere to our comprehensive Child Protection Policy, standing by our mandatory reporting responsibilities to protect children from physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse and neglect.

Our Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

Adventure Patch is committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people. We understand our responsibilities and statutory duty of care to comply with the Tasmanian Child Safe and Youth Safe Organisations Framework and the Reportable

Conduct Scheme and to build our capacity as an organisation to prevent and respond to allegations of child abuse.

Adventure Patch is committed to implementing and abiding by this Policy, based on the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023(Tas), which reinforces that Adventure Patch has *zero tolerance* for child abuse and raises awareness about the importance of child safety in our services and the community.

We aim to promote a child safe environment designed to maintain the well-being of the children in our care. This is articulated in our Child Protection Policy.

We will work to ensure there is a clear awareness of the difference between appropriate and inappropriate behaviour concerning adults and children.

We are committed to promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal children, cultural safety for children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

We will ensure employees are provided with training and ongoing professional development to ensure they are skilled to meet their obligations to identify and respond to the potential risk of or actual, harm, abuse or neglect, including mandatory reporting obligations, and are responsive to their responsibilities in keeping children safe.

We understand our obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and actively work to inform children about their right to be safe and what to do if they feel unsafe. This includes encouraging them to express their views and thoughts on matters that directly affect them.

We listen to and empower children to act on any concerns they or others may raise, which is reflected in our policies and procedures for keeping children safe.

The Approved Provider/Management/Nominated Supervisor Will Ensure:

- That obligations under the Education and Care Services National Law and Education and Care Services National Regulations are met and child's safety and wellbeing are prioritised at all times.
- All educators, staff, students and volunteers have knowledge of and adhere to this policy, the Child Safe Standards and associated child safe policies and procedures.
- Families are aware of this Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and procedure and are advised on how and where the policy can be accessed.
- Educators and staff are provided with training and ongoing supervision to promote a child safe culture and ensure they understand that child safety is everyone's responsibility, and they adhere to the Victorian Child Safe Standards.
- Regularly review and monitor child safe policies and procedures to maintain a culture of Continuous improvement.

Educators Will:

- Ensure they adhere to this *Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy* and related child safe policies and procedures
- Promote the welfare, safety, and wellbeing of children at the Service by creating and maintaining child safe environment and adhere to the Child Safe Standards (CSS)
- Ensure no child is subject to inappropriate conduct or discipline
- Understand their legal responsibilities to report any allegations or disclosures that a staff member or volunteer is engaging or has engaged in inappropriate conduct to notify the regulatory authority, approved provider and nominated supervisor within 24 hours.

Related Policies

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| <p>Arrival and Departure of Children Policy Child Protection Policy Child Safe Environment Policy Code of Conduct Complaints and Grievances Policy (Families) Governance Policy Educator Staffing Arrangements Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy Interactions with Children Policy Providing a Child Safe Environment Policy</p> | <p>Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Recruitment Policy Education & Care Record Keeping and Retention Policy Recruitment Policy Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policy Staffing Arrangements Policy Supervision Policy Whistleblower Policy</p> |
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Resources

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2026). <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-03/Guide-to-the-NQF-March-2023.pdf> *Guide to the National Quality Framework*

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2024). [Taking Images and Video of Children While Providing Early Childhood Education and Care. Guidelines For The National Model Code.](#)

Early Childhood Australia (2016) [Code of Ethics](#)

[Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act \(2023\) Tas](#)

[Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997](#)

[Commissioner for Children and Young People.](#)

Commission for children and young people. [A guide for creating a Child Safe Organisation](#)

Commission for children and young people. *Short Guide to the Child Safe Standards*

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations.](#) (Amended 2025).


State of Victoria (Department of Education and Training). (2024) Early childhood guidance: Identifying signs of child abuse: [Identify signs of child abuse](#)

[Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013 \(Tas\)](#)

Review History

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|---------------------|--|------------------|------------------|
| Policy Reviewed By: | Tim Short | CEO | November 2025 |
| POLICY REVIEWED | November 2025 | NEXT REVIEW DATE | November 2027 |
| Modifications | <p>March 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated laws and regulations Major re-write of policy to merge current Child Safe Environment Policy with Child Safety and Wellbeing (Child Safe Environment Policy) Included child safety reforms for Education and Care Services National Law- mandatory National child safety training, inappropriate conduct offences Sources checked and updated as required <p>November 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General policy maintenance Updated National Laws and regulations Updated resources list and hyperlinks checked, Removed standards from policy and placed them into procedure. | | |
| POLICY REVIEWED | PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS | | NEXT REVIEW DATE |
| October 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy maintenance Additional National Law added hyperlinks checked, added OIR link | | November 2025 |
| November 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Policy | | November 2024 |

Signed:

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| CEO: |  |
| Manager: | S. Notcus |