

# Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy

<b>Policy Relevant to:</b>	Families, Educators, Team Members, children, and visitors
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	November 2025
<b>Next Review:</b>	November 2027
<b>ECS National Law:</b>	S162(A), S165, S166, S167
<b>ECS National Regulation:</b>	r82, r83, r84, r97, r99, r115, r122, r123, r136, r145, r149, r155, r162, r167, r168(2)(h), r168(ha), r170, r171, r172, r175, r358
<b>NQS:</b>	2.2, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 5.1.1, 7.1
<b>Legislation / Regulation</b>	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*. This Policy will work together with our *Code of Conduct*, *Recruitment Policy*, *Child Safe Environment 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 with the 10 Child and Youth Safe Standards, and the one Universal Principle, to ensure a child safe environment for all children.

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.

## 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.

## Definitions

**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)*.

**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]

**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.

## Related Policies

<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 &amp; Care Record Keeping and Retention Policy          Recruitment Policy          Safe Use of Digital Technologies and Online Environments Policy          Staffing Arrangements Policy          Supervision Policy</p>
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## Resources

Australian Children's Education & Care Quality Authority. (2025). [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.](#)

*Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*

*Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005 (Vic)*

*Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*

*Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (as amended 2014) (Vic)*

Commission for children and young people. *Being a child safe organisation*

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/>

Commission for children and young people. *Creating a Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy*

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Creating-a-Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy.docx>

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 2023).

Failure to Disclose 2014

Failure to Protect 2015

*Family Law Act 1975*

State of Victoria (Department of Education and Training). (2024) Early childhood guidance:

Identifying signs of child abuse: [Identify signs of child abuse](#)

*The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)*

*The Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998*

*The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012*

Victoria State Government. [The Child Safe Standards. Early Childhood Services.](#)

The Victorian Government. Child Information Sharing Scheme. (2024).

<https://www.vic.gov.au/child-information-sharing-scheme>

The Victorian Government. Family Violence Information Sharing Scheme

<https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-information-sharing-scheme>

*Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic)*

UNICEF Australian. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child <https://www.unicef.org.au/our-work/information-for-children/un-convention-on-the-rights-of-the-child>

**Review History**

Policy Reviewed By:	Tim Short	CEO	November 2025
POLICY REVIEWED	November 2025	NEXT REVIEW DATE	November 2027
Modifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General policy maintenance</li> <li>• Updated National Laws and regulations</li> <li>• Updated resources list and hyperlinks checked,</li> <li>• Removed standards from policy and placed them into procedure.</li> </ul>		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS	NEXT REVIEW DATE	
October 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy maintenance</li> <li>• Additional National Law added</li> <li>• hyperlinks checked, added OIR link</li> </ul>	November 2025	
November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Policy</li> </ul>	November 2024	

**Signed:**

<b>CEO:</b>	
<b>Manager:</b>	S. Norris