

Council Policy

Council Policy Name: Child Safe Awareness

Responsible Directorate: Community Planning

Version: ADOPTED

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1. The City of Busselton supports and values all children and young people. The City of Busselton makes a commitment to support 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 of Busselton demonstrates its commitment to being child safe and a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.
- 1.2. This policy aims 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 of Busselton is committed to encouraging local organisations to be child safe and ensure children are safe and empowered.
- 1.3. This Child Safe Awareness policy 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 of Busselton is uniquely placed within the local community to demonstrate leadership by supporting organisations to be child safe and to protect children and young people from harm and/or abuse. The City of Busselton will promote the safety and wellbeing of children across the community.
- 1.4. Consistent with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, this policy provides a framework that outlines the role of the City of Busselton in supporting local organisations to be child safe through access to resources, awareness raising and sharing relevant information.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1. This Policy is applicable to all, employees, volunteers, trainees, work experience students, interns, and anyone else who undertakes work on behalf of the City of Busselton, regardless of their work related to children or young people. It applies to all occupants of the City of Busselton facilities and venues, including community organisations, sport and recreation clubs and all visitors, contractors and suppliers to those facilities.

3. DEFINITIONS

Term	Meaning
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 Organisation Safe	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. Note: in the context of local governments, this would involve referring concerns to the Department of Communities or WA Police to respond as appropriate. Implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations give effect to the above.
Child safe	For the purpose of this policy, child safe means protecting the rights of children and young people to be safe by taking actions that can help prevent harm and abuse.
Harm	to transmit or receive live video and audio coverage of an event over the internet with the content simultaneously recorded and broadcast in real time to the viewer
Wellbeing	Wellbeing of children and young people includes the care, development, education, health and safety of children and young people

4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Strategic Theme	Objective
LIFESTYLE	3. Facilitate access to inclusive services, places and spaces to support community members to connect and thrive at every stage of life.

5. POLICY STATEMENT

- 5.1. The rights of children and young people are upheld.
- 5.2. Children and young people are respected, listened to, and informed about their rights.
- 5.3. Children and young people have the fundamental right to be safe and cared for.
- 5.4. Children and young people have the right to speak up, be heard and taken seriously without the threat of negative consequences.
- 5.5. The safety and best interests of children and young people are a primary consideration when making decisions that concern them.
- 5.6. Access to trusted and reliable information, including the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, helps support organisations to understand what they must do to help reduce the risk of harm and abuse.
- 5.7. Communities are informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people including protection from harm.
- 5.8. Collaboration with the community and our partners promotes the safety, participation and empowerment of all children and young people.

6. POLICY FUNCTIONS

- 6.1. The City of Busselton will ensure the following functions of this policy are resourced and assigned to the relevant officers for implementation:
 - a. Developing a process to deliver child safe messages (for example at City of Busselton venues, grounds and facilities or events).

- b. Connecting and supporting local community groups, organisations, and stakeholders to child safe resources (including culturally safe and inclusive resources).

7. POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES

- 7.1. The City of Busselton has a leadership role in our community to support relevant organisations to be child safe and promote child safe practices.
- 7.2. Although the City of Busselton is not legally responsible for providing oversight of compliance with child safe practices, it will take any reasonable steps to engage with persons who utilise the City of Busselton facilities to operate in alignment with the Child Safe Awareness policy.
- 7.3. The City of Busselton will determine which roles across the organisation will directly support the implementation of the Child Safe Awareness policy.

8. RELATED DOCUMENTATION / LEGISLATION

- 8.1. Aboriginal / First Nations / Cultural Policy
- 8.2. Child Safety Policy
- 8.3. Employee Code of Conduct
- 8.4. Corporate Communications Policy
- 8.5. Community Signage Policy
- 8.6. Employee Complaints Management Policy
- 8.7. Engagement Policy
- 8.8. Information Technology Policy
- 8.9. Record Keeping Policy
- 8.10. Strategic Community Plan
- 8.11. Strategic and Operational Risk Plans
- 8.12. Volunteer Policy
- 8.13. Working with Children Checks Policy
- 8.14. Youth Policy
- 8.15. *Child Care Services Act 2007*
- 8.16. *Children and Community Services Act 2004*
- 8.17. *Civil Liability Act 2002*
- 8.18. *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*
- 8.19. *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- 8.20. *Freedom of Information Act 1997*
- 8.21. *Local Government Act 1995*
- 8.22. *National Principles for Child Safety Organisations*
- 8.23. *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971*
- 8.24. *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003r*
- 8.25. *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- 8.26. *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*
- 8.27. *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*
- 8.28. *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004*

9. REVIEW DETAILS

Review Frequency		This policy will be reviewed every two years or upon the introduction of other relevant policy or legislation related to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.		
Council Adoption	DATE	8 October 2025	Resolution #	C2510/290
Previous Adoption	DATE	N/A	Resolution #	