



Public Statement of Commitment to Child Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Centacare FNO is committed to ensuring the safety, wellbeing and cultural safety of all children and young people who engage with our services. We believe every child has the right to grow up in environments that are caring, supportive, safe, inclusive and free from harm.

Our organisation actively upholds the Child Safe Standards and the Universal Principle: that all children have the right to cultural safety and to thrive in environments that respect and strengthen their identity, community, and connection to culture.

OUR COMMITMENT

- Child safety and wellbeing are paramount. We will always act to protect children from abuse, neglect, exploitation, racism, discrimination, and unsafe practices.
- Children's voices are valued. We will actively listen to children, respect their views, and ensure their participation in decisions that affect them.
- Cultural safety and respect for diversity are central. We are committed to creating inclusive environments where:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children feel respected, connected, and strong in culture.
 - Children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, refugee and migrant communities feel welcomed, included, and supported.
 - Children with disability, children unable to live at home, children of diverse genders, sexualities, and identities, and children from all other diverse experiences and backgrounds are safe, respected, and fully included.

- Safe people and safe practices. All staff, volunteers, and contractors must uphold our Code of Conduct and meet screening requirements (Blue Card, Yellow Card, and National Police Checks). We provide ongoing training, supervision, and professional development to ensure staff understand their safeguarding responsibilities and obligations regarding cultural safety, diversity, and inclusion.
- Zero tolerance to abuse, racism, discrimination or exclusion. We take all allegations, complaints, and concerns seriously and respond promptly, fairly, and in line with the law. We adopt trauma-informed and culturally respectful approaches to complaints management.
- Strong governance and accountability. Our Board and Executive Leadership are accountable for embedding child safeguarding, cultural safety, and respect for diversity within governance, policy, and practice, and for ensuring continuous improvement in line with the Child Safe Standards.
- Risk management and safe environments. We will proactively identify and address risks to children in physical and online environments, ensuring that cultural, social, emotional, and diverse wellbeing needs are part of our safeguarding approach.
- Continuous improvement. We will regularly review and evaluate our policies, practices, and culture, with input from children, families, communities, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, CALD, refugee and migrant partners, as well as those with lived experience of disability and diverse identities.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

This statement applies to all Centacare FNO employees, volunteers, contractors, students, and board members. It is a visible and public expression of our organisation's ongoing commitment to child safeguarding, cultural safety, equity, and diversity.