



CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

ORIENTEERING VICTORIA

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www.vicsport.com.au

WHO IS VICSPORT



Independent member-based organisation

Peak body for sport and active recreation in Victoria.

We aim to encourage and assist more Victorians and Victorian communities to enjoy the enormous benefits that sport and active recreation can provide.

Tom Dixon – Participation Strategy Manager

- Participation
- Strategy
- Policy

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

BACKGROUND

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- The **Betrayal of Trust** Inquiry
 - Handling of **child abuse** allegations within **religious and other non-government organisations**
- The introduction of **compulsory, minimum Child Safe Standards**
- Complementing these changes are:
 - a **reportable conduct scheme** for the centralised reporting of abuse allegations to an oversight body
 - laws to **protect children from sexual abuse**
 - provisions to make it easier for **victims to seek justice**.

WHO DO THEY APPLY TO?

ORGANISATIONS

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CATEGORY 1

-Organisations that receive **government funding** or are covered by **regulation or contractual requirements.**

1 January 2016

- Registered schools & agencies, via a Ministerial Order

1 August 2016

CATEGORY 2

-Organisations that **have little or no funding or regulatory relationship** with government.

1 January 2017

WHO DO THEY APPLY TO?

PERSONNEL

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The Standards apply to the **organisation as a whole**, not only the areas that work with children

The Standards apply to **all personnel** in your organisation

This includes:

- Board of Management / Committee Members
- All paid staff (CEO, Executive, Employees)
- All Volunteers (Coaches, officials, administrators, scorers etc)
- All students on placement
- Any contractors you engage

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

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- Standards are **flexible and principle based**.
- Each of the Standards must be understood and applied in the context of:
 - the cultural safety of **Aboriginal children**
 - the cultural safety of **children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse background**
 - the safety of **children with a disability**

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

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- For the purpose of these Standards:
 - a child is defined as a person **under the age of 18 years**.
 - child abuse is defined as:
 - **sexual** abuse (including grooming, with the intent to sexually harm a child)
 - **physical** abuse or violence
 - serious **psychological or emotional** abuse (including verbal)
 - serious **neglect**

WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS?

1. Strategies to embed an organisational **culture of child safety**, including through effective leadership arrangements
2. A **child safe policy** or statement of commitment to child safety
3. A **code of conduct** that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children
4. Screening, supervision, training and other **human resources practices** that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel
5. Processes for **responding to and reporting** suspected child abuse
6. Strategies to **identify and reduce or remove risks** of child abuse
7. Strategies to promote the **participation and empowerment of children.**

WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

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- Develop a **working group or sub-committee**
- Undertake a **child safety review** to identify:
 - What you already have in place
 - What you are doing well
 - Where you need to improve
 - Do you need anyone else to help?
- Understand your **level of risk** (the services and activities you provide)
- Identify what **further information**, advice and support you need
- Develop and implement an **action plan**

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SUPPORT & RESOURCES

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Vicsport

03 9698 8100

admin@vicsport.com.au

www.vicsport.com.au/child-safe-standards

The Commission for Children and Young People

03 8601 5281

childsafestandards@ccyp.vic.gov.au

www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards.htm

The Department of Health & Human Services

(03) 9096 0000

childsafestandards@dhhs.vic.gov.au

www.dhs.vic.gov.au

www.vicsport.com.au

REMEMBER...

- There is no shortcut or one size fits all
- A culture of child safety and strong leadership.
- Child safety is not an add on or one off exercise.
- It is not just good practice, it is the law.

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