

# Child Safe Standards

## ABOUT THE STANDARDS

### Why Do We Have The Standards?

In April 2012, the Victorian government initiated an inquiry into the handling of child abuse allegations within religious and other non-government organisations. The inquiry's final report, *Betrayal of Trust*, made a number of recommendations that have been acted on by the Victorian Government. The creation of Child Safe Standards (the Standards) was one of the key recommendations.

### Who Do They Apply To?

Organisations affected by the Standards are classed as either Category 1 or Category 2 as per the table below. The majority of sporting organisations are classed as Category 2 organisations.

<p><b>Category 1</b> Organisations that receive government funding or are covered by regulation or contractual requirements.</p> <p>Registered schools</p>	<p>Work towards from 1 January 2016</p> <p>By 1 August 2016</p>
<p><b>Category 2</b> Organisations that have little or no funding or regulatory relationship with government.</p>	<p>By 1 January 2017</p>

From 1 January 2017, the Child Safe Standards will apply to sporting organisations that operate and provide sporting services to children within Victoria (including National Sporting Organisations). The Standards apply to organisations 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?

The Standards are flexible and principle based.

The Standards apply to the safety of all children who are involved in your sport. Research shows that children from some population groups are at a higher risk of abuse than others. As such, each of the Standards must also 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

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
- Serious neglect

### What Are The Standards?

It takes many components to build an organisation with a culture of child safety. The Standards should act as a starting point from which your organisation can take action. The Child Safe Standards incorporate:

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 Action Should I Take?

1. Develop a **working group or sub-committee** to lead your organisations focus on developing a child safe culture
2. 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?
3. Understand your **level of risk** in relation to the services and activities you provide to your members
4. Identify what **further information**, advice and support you need
5. Develop and implement an **action plan** to ensure your organisation meets the Standards
6. Consider the **needs of your members** (clubs & associations) and what assistance they may require

### Who Can Help Me?

Vicsport  
03 9698 8100  
[admin@vicsport.com.au](mailto:admin@vicsport.com.au)  
[www.vicsport.com.au/child-safe-standards](http://www.vicsport.com.au/child-safe-standards)

The Commission for Children and Young People  
03 8601 5281  
[childsafestandards@ccyp.vic.gov.au](mailto:childsafestandards@ccyp.vic.gov.au)  
<http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards.htm>

### Remember:

Child safety is not an add-on or one-off exercise. It is a legal requirement that your organisation will need to be compliant with as of 1 January 2017.

Having policies and procedures in place is not enough. It's about creating a culture and environment within sport that is supportive and protective of children.

Vicsport is here to assist SSAs & RSAs through the process.

### Further Information:

**P** +61 3 9698 8100    **E** [admin@vicsport.com.au](mailto:admin@vicsport.com.au)    **W** [www.vicsport.com.au/child-safe-standards](http://www.vicsport.com.au/child-safe-standards)