

Commitment to child safety

As an organisation, and as individuals, we are committed to being a child safe organisation in everything we do and everything we promote.

We also make sure the following are in place:

- We take all concerns and disclosures seriously, whether they come from children, workers, parents or others. We are committed to addressing issues thoroughly and sensitively, respecting all parties and maintaining a fair approach when investigating how our procedures or processes may have failed, and upholding external reporting responsibilities.
- We actively work to listen to and empower children.
- Our robust procedures and processes are designed to minimise and/or remove the risk of child abuse occurring on our premises and within our services.
- Our recruitment processes emphasise our commitment to child safety, and interviews and referee checks include questions regarding the candidate's actions and approach to child safety.
- All staff will be trained in how we work as a child safe organisation.
- Staff are given regular opportunities to discuss child safe issues generally (in team and staff meetings), and to raise any concerns or questions they may have (during supervision or at any point with a manager or Executive team (Exec) member).
- We only partner with other organisations who comply with the Child Safe Standards.

CatholicCare Sandhurst has zero tolerance for child abuse.

References:

- CatholicCare Sandhurst's Code of Ethics and Conduct (ORT1.1)
- Betrayal of Trust; Inquiry into the handling of child abuse by religious and other non-government organisations, by the Victorian Government's Family and Community Development Committee
- An overview of the Victorian Child Safe Standards, published by the Victorian Government's Department of Health and Human Services
- Child Protection Toolkit, published by Our Community Pty Ltd and Moores
- Legislation: Crimes Act 1958 (Vic), Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic), Family Law Act 1975 (Cwlth),
- Child Safety and Wellbeing Act 2005 (Vic)

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