



FACT SHEET: Office of the Children's Guardian 10 Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse provided a framework for organisations to enable them develop strategies to keep children safe from harm.

These standards have since been adopted by the Office of the Children's Guardian (the OCG) to form the basis of their regulatory framework. Child-related organisations in NSW are required to comply with the OCG's Child Safe Standards. The standards work together to emphasise the importance of adopting multiple strategies to address child safety by:

- Helping drive cultural change in organisations
- Being principle-based and outcome-focused
- Being flexible enough that they can be adapted by organisations of varying sizes and characteristics
- Avoiding placing undue burden on organisations
- Helping organisations address multiple risks
- Balancing caution and caring
- Forming a benchmark against which organisations can assess their child safe capability and set performance targets
- Being of equal importance and interrelated

The Child Safe Standards encompass existing child safety requirements for individuals and organisations such as the Working With Children Check, the Reportable Conduct Scheme and requirements to report information to the Police and the Department of Communities and Justice.

10 Child Safe Standards

Standard 1: Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture

Standard 2: Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously

Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved

Standard 4: equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account

Standard 5: People working with Children are suitable and supported

Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints of Child Abuse are Child focused

Standard 7: Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training

Standard 8: Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur

Standard 9: Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved

Standard 10: Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe

More Information:

If you have specific questions about the 10 Child Safe Standards you can email the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office on safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org or **phone 02 9390 5810**

For further information, you can visit the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian website at ocg.nsw.gov.au