



Child Safety Awareness Policy

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the policy is to reduce the risk of harm and child sexual abuse in our community by encouraging child safe environments to be created and maintained. The Shire encourages local organisations to be child safe and ensure children are safe and empowered.

2. SCOPE

This policy applies to Shire employees and Council Members.

3. DEFINITIONS

Shire means the Shire of Derby/West Kimberley

Shire Staff means employees, volunteers, trainees, work experience students and anyone else who undertakes work on behalf of the Shire, regardless of whether their work relates directly to children or young people.

Council means the Shire's governing body comprised of Council Members.

Volunteer means any person donating their time to Shire programs, activities and events.

Abuse Abuse is an act, or a failure to act, towards or on behalf of a child that may result in harm. It can occur on one occasion or multiple occasions. Sometimes the impact of multiple events leads to harm that becomes cumulative in nature. Types of abuse include physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and neglect.

Child/Children: Means a person under 18 years of age, and in the absence of positive evidence as to age, means a person who appears to be under 18 years of age.

Child Safe Organisation: is defined in the Royal Commission Final Report as one that:

- creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing are at the centre of thought, values, and actions;
- places emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children and young people;
- creates conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people;
- creates conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm; and
- responds to any concerns, disclosures, allegations, or suspicions of harm.

Child safe: For the purpose of this policy, child safe means protecting the rights of children and young people to be safe.

Harm: Harm, in relation to a child, means any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's wellbeing, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance; or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.

Wellbeing: Wellbeing of children and young people includes the care, development, education, health and safety of children and young people.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

Shire of Derby/West Kimberley is committed to supporting the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people, including protection from abuse. This Child Safe Awareness policy is one of the ways the Shire demonstrates its commitment to being child safe and its zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.



Shire of Derby / West Kimberley

It has been developed in response to recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and recognises that the Shire is uniquely placed within the community to demonstrate leadership by supporting organisations to be child safe and to protect children and young people from harm and/or abuse.

Recommendation 6.12 also states that local governments should designate child safety officer positions from within existing staff profiles.

The Shire will promote the safety and wellbeing of children participating in Shire programs, activities and events. Consistent with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, this policy also outlines the Shire's role in supporting local organisations to be child safe through access to resources, awareness raising and sharing relevant information.

5. POLICY DETAILS

This policy delivers on the following objectives:

- a) Communities are informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people including protection from harm. Although the Shire is not legally responsible for providing oversight of compliance with child safe practices, it will take steps to ensure that Shire staff and any persons who participate in Shire programs, activities and events operate in alignment with the Child Safe Awareness policy. The Shire will develop a process to deliver child safe messages at Shire programs, activities and events.
- b) Collaboration with the community and our partners promotes the safety, participation and empowerment of all children and young people. The Shire has a leadership role in our community to support relevant organisations to be child safe and promote child safe practices. It will connect and support local community groups, organisations, and stakeholders to access child safe resources.

6. COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Shire does not have any mandatory obligations it needs to comply with by having this policy in place. However, the following pieces of legislation apply generally to the child safety environment:

- *Children and Community Services Act 2004*
- *Civil Liability Act 2002*
- *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1997*
- *Local Government Act 1995*
- National Principles for Child Safety Organisations
- *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971*
- *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003r*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*
- *Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Amendment Act 2022*



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Policy Details			
Original Adoption date:	27 November 2025	Review Frequency (Annual/Bi-ennial):	2 Years
		Next Review Due:	July 2027
Policy Implementing Officer or Team:	Manager Community Development	Policy Reviewer:	Director Community Planning
Legislative Head of Power (Act, Regulation, or Local Law):	<i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i> <i>Civil Liability Act 2002</i> <i>Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003</i> <i>Equal Opportunity Act 1984</i> <i>Freedom of Information Act 1997</i> <i>Local Government Act 1995</i> <i>Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971</i> <i>Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003r</i> <i>Public Sector Management Act 1994</i> <i>Work Health and Safety Act 2020</i> <i>Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Amendment Act 2022</i>		
Related Documents (other Policies, Operational Procedures, Delegations, etc.):	National Principles for Child Safety Organisations United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)		
Version Control Council Meeting Review Details:			
Review #:	Council Meeting Date:	Item/Resolution#:	
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