

## CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

All organisations in Victoria that provide services or facilities for children are required to comply with Child Safe Standards, to ensure that the safety of children is promoted, child abuse is prevented, and allegations of child abuse are properly responded to.

The Child Safe Standards are minimum compulsory standards for all organisations that interact with children and young people. The Standards aim to prevent abuse through a focus on cultural change and help to protect children from the risks of abuse.

New Child Safe Standards are coming to better protect children and young people from abuse. The new Standards will **commence on 1 July 2022**. The eleven new Standards will replace Victoria's current seven standards and principles.

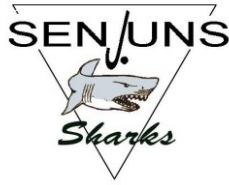
Key changes include new requirements:

- To involve families and communities in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe
- For a greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people
- To manage the risk of child abuse in online environments
- For greater clarity on the governance, systems and processes to keep children and young people safe.

Changes have been made to support greater national consistency, reflecting the National Principles for a Child Safe Organisation developed following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

An overview of the new Standards is provided below:

1. Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued
2. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture
3. Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
4. Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing
5. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice
6. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice
7. Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused
8. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training
9. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed
10. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved
11. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.



#### Resources:

The overview below and the resources on the [Vicsport site](#) focus on the Victorian standards.

The following resources from the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) provide further information and details about the incoming changes:

- Victoria's new [Child Safe Standards](#)
- What's New? – [An overview of the Child Safe Standards](#)
- What's Changing? – [A comparison of current and new Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Further information from CCYP](#)
- The Safe Hockey Hub is Hockey Australia's comprehensive and accessible resource hub designed to give all members of the hockey community the information they need to help us fulfil this commitment.: <https://www.hockey.org.au/integrity/safe-hockey/>

#### What next?

- The Bendigo Senjuns Hockey Club Committee of Management will be discussing the new Standards in their meetings.
- Committee members will be asked to familiarise themselves with the resources.
- Links to the above sites will be added to our website.