

The Child Safe Standards

Information for young people



You have the right to feel safe and to be safe

Whether you are at school, participating in an after-school activity or playing sport, involved in a religious organisation, or getting healthcare, you have the right to feel safe and to be safe.

Being safe means you are free from abuse, harassment, discrimination or inappropriate behaviour. Feeling safe means you are comfortable in the places where you spend time and trust the adults around you.

You have a **right** to:

- be safe and feel safe wherever you are
- expect that the adults around you are keeping you safe
- be given information about how to raise a safety concern
- be listened to if you have a safety concern, and have action taken about your concern.

There are laws to keep you safe in organisations

In Victoria, there are a range of laws meant to help keep you safe. These include the Child Safe Standards. The Child Safe Standards mean **organisations** that provide services and activities for children and young people **need to have certain things in place to keep you safe.**



The **Child Safe Standards** say that **organisations must:**

- have systems in place to prioritise your safety (like good policies and practices)
- make sure all the adults in the organisation, including staff and volunteers, are safe adults
- talk to you about your right to be safe and listen to what you have to say
- tell you how to report a safety concern and help you to speak up
- take action if you report a safety concern
- support you if you raise a safety concern and keep you updated and involved in the process
- treat your personal information confidentially and only share it with people who need to know.



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN
AND YOUNG PEOPLE



What should I do if I have a safety concern?

If there is an **emergency**, or you or someone else is in danger, then call police on **Triple Zero (000)** immediately.

If it isn't an emergency, **tell an adult that you trust**. The person you tell might be a parent, carer, family member or another adult in your household, a teacher or coach, a counsellor, or any other adult you feel comfortable with.

If they don't help you, tell another adult you trust or you can **contact the Commission** for information and assistance.

Once the organisation knows about your safety concern they **must take it seriously and do something about it**. They need to listen to you and support you to be safe and to feel safe.

For support, you can also contact headspace <https://headspace.org.au/eheadspace/> or the Kids Helpline <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>.

About the Commission for Children and Young People

Our job is to promote the safety, wellbeing and rights of children and young people in Victoria. One of the ways we do this is by talking to the government and organisations about how they can best support you and keep you safe.

We also make sure organisations follow laws like the Child Safe Standards. If an organisation is not following the Child Safe Standards, we take action.

Contact the Commission

If you need help understanding anything about the Child Safe Standards, or if you have any safety concerns about an organisation, you can contact us at the Commission.

-  call us on 1300 78 29 78 (free call)
-  email us at: contact@ccyp.vic.gov.au
-  visit our website at: ccyp.vic.gov.au

