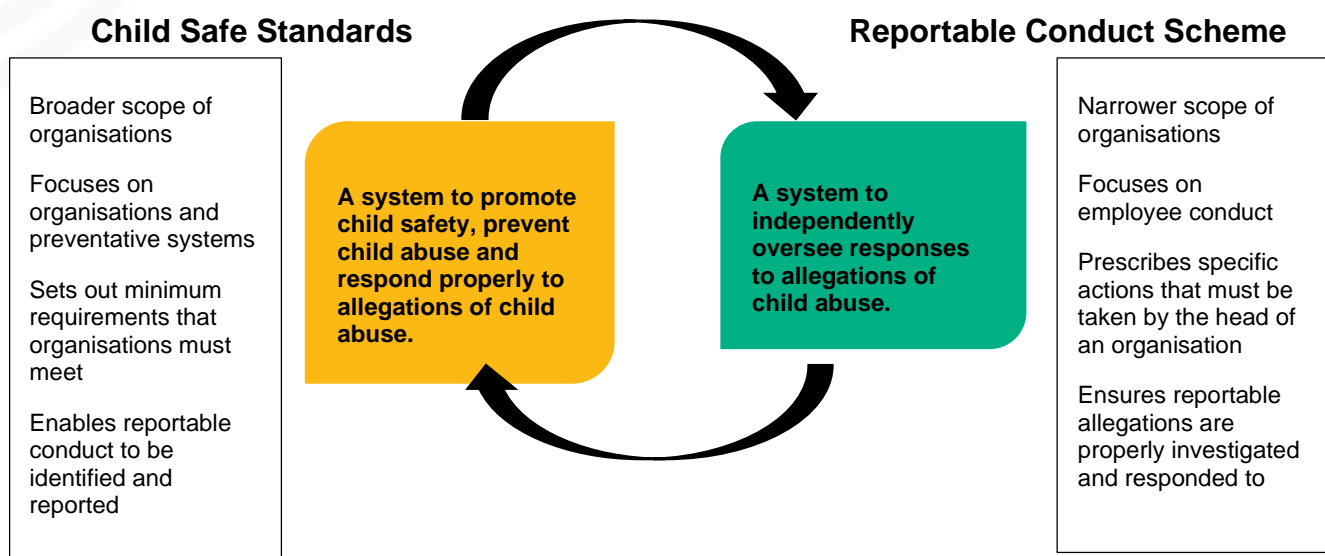


How the Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme work together to keep children safe from abuse

In 2012, the Victorian Parliament conducted an inquiry into the handling of child abuse allegations within religious and other non-government organisations. The *Betrayal of Trust* Report, which detailed the inquiry findings, was tabled in Parliament in 2013.

The *Betrayal of Trust* Report made a range of recommendations, including the need to better protect children from child abuse when they access services provided by organisations. The Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme are part of the Victorian Government's commitment to implementing these recommendations.

The Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme create distinct sets of responsibilities for organisations but have been designed to complement one another. Together, the Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme strengthen the capacity of organisations to prevent and respond properly to allegations of child abuse.



The Commission for Children and Young People has oversight and regulatory responsibility for the Reportable Conduct Scheme. Regulation of the Child Safe Standards is shared between six regulators, including the Commission. Each regulator is responsible for different types of organisations.

For more information about the regulation of the Child Safe Standards, see <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/enforcing-the-standards/changes-to-who-is-regulating-the-child-safe-standards>

The Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards are focused on organisations and what they do to promote child safety, prevent child abuse and respond to allegations of child abuse.

The Standards are a compulsory framework that support organisations to promote the safety of children by requiring them to implement policies to prevent, respond to and report allegations of child abuse and harm. They are designed to drive cultural change and embed a focus on child safety by placing children’s rights and wellbeing at the forefront of everything done within an organisation.

The Child Safe Standards apply to a wide and varied range of organisations and their staff or volunteers regardless if they work directly with children, or not. They apply to organisations that do one or more of the following:

- provide any services specifically for children
- provide any facilities specifically for use by children who are under the organisation’s supervision
- engage a child as a contractor, employee or volunteer to assist the organisation in providing services, facilities or goods.¹

For those required to comply, the Child Safe Standards are law and are mandatory within Victoria. Organisations must comply with all aspects of the Standards and there can be legal consequences for non-compliance.

There are 11 Child Safe Standards. Each Standard is expressed as a statement of an expected outcome that organisations must achieve.

1. 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

¹ Organisations covered by the Reportable Conduct Scheme are subject to the Child Safe Standards and must comply.

For more information about the Child Safe Standards see: <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards>

The Reportable Conduct Scheme

The Reportable Conduct Scheme is focused on worker and volunteer conduct, and how organisations investigate and respond to allegations of child abuse. To find out more about the types of employees and volunteers covered by the Scheme see <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme/who-does-the-scheme-apply-to/>

The Scheme aims to improve organisational responses to allegations of child abuse and to facilitate the identification of individuals who pose a risk of harm to children.

The Scheme applies to some organisations required to meet the Child Safe Standards – those with a high level of responsibility for children – and sets out specific obligations for the heads of these organisations. The head of an organisation must ensure that the Commission is notified of reportable allegations within three days of becoming aware and ensure there is an investigation. They must also have systems in place that:

- prevent reportable conduct from being committed
- enable reportable allegations to be made to the head of the organisation
- enable reportable allegations that involve the head of an organisation to be reported to the Commission
- enable the investigation and response to a reportable allegation against a worker or volunteer of the organisation.

Adopting a continuous improvement approach to keeping children safe from child abuse

An allegation of reportable conduct may reveal information about the effectiveness of the systems used by an organisation to prevent child abuse and respond to allegations of child abuse. This information can be used to improve an organisation's systems and better protect children from child abuse.

For more information about the Reportable Conduct Scheme see: <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme>



Where to get help

For further information about the Reportable Conduct Scheme, the Child Safe Standards, to talk through issues of concern, or to make a notification:



Telephone us on: 1300 782 978



Email us at: contact@ccyp.vic.gov.au



Visit the Commission's website: www.ccyp.vic.gov.au

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 and ask them to contact the Commission for Children and Young People on 1300 782 978.

National Relay Service (NRS)

If you are d/Deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication difficulty please contact us by:

step 1 - contacting the NRS through your preferred NRS call channel detailed on [NRS call numbers and links](#)

step 2 - provide the NRS with the Commission for Children and Young People's number 1300 782 978.

For more information visit: [About the National Relay Service](#)

For help in an emergency call police on 000.

Support services

Lifeline on 13 11 14, 1800 Respect on 1800 737 732, the Blue Knot Foundation on 1300 657 380 (9-5 AEST Mon-Sun) and Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636.

Further information about support services is also available on the [Commission for Children and Young People's website](#).

