

Child Safe Awareness Policy

Responsible Directorate Office of the Chief Executive Officer

1. Context and Objective

To provide a framework for the City of Nedlands to support community organisations to create safe environments for children and young people, by ensuring child safe messages, information and resources are accessible to them.

Child Safe Awareness Policy has been developed in response to Recommendation 6.12 from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission) and its recognition of the important role that local governments play in building a community approach to child safety.

Consistent with the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#) and [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework](#), this policy provides a framework that outlines the role of the City of Nedlands in supporting local organisations to be child safe through access to resources, awareness raising and sharing relevant information.

2. Scope

The safety and wellbeing of children is everyone's responsibility. This Child Safe Awareness policy applies to all employees, volunteers, trainees, work experience students, interns, and anyone else who undertakes work on behalf of the City of Nedlands, regardless of their work related to children or young people. It applies to occupants of the City of Nedlands facilities and venues, including visitors, contractors, and suppliers.

3. Definitions

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.
Note: in the context of local governments, this would involve referring concerns to the Department of Communities or WA Police to respond as appropriate.

Implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations give effect to the above.

Child safe

For the purpose of this policy, child safe means protecting the rights of children and young people to be safe by taking actions that can help prevent harm and abuse.

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 Requirements

- The rights of children and young people are upheld.
- Children and young people are respected, listened to, and informed about their rights.
- Children and young people have the fundamental right to be safe and cared for.
- Children and young people have the right to speak up, be heard and taken seriously without the threat of negative consequences.
- The safety and best interests of children and young people are a primary consideration when making decisions that concern them.
- Access to trusted and reliable information, including the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, helps support organisations to understand what they must do to help reduce the risk of harm and abuse.
- Communities are informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people including protection from harm.
- Collaboration with the community and our partners promotes the safety, participation and empowerment of all children and young people.

The City of Nedlands will ensure the following functions of this policy are resourced and assigned to the relevant officers for implementation.

- Developing a process to deliver child safe messages (for example at City of Nedlands venues, grounds and facilities or events).



- Connecting and supporting local community groups, organisations, and stakeholders to child safe resources (including culturally safe and inclusive resources).

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The City of Nedlands has a leadership role in our community to support relevant organisations to be child safe and promote child safe practices.

Although The City of Nedlands is not legally responsible for providing oversight of compliance with child safe practices, it will take any reasonable steps to engage with persons who utilise The City of Nedlands facilities to operate in alignment with the Child Safe Awareness policy.

The City of Nedlands will determine which roles across the organisation will directly support the implementation of the Child Safe Awareness policy.

6. Related documentation

- Reconciliation Action Plan
- Employee Code of Conduct
- Corporate Communications Policy
- Community Signage Policy
- Employee Grievance Management Policy
- Community Engagement Policy
- Information Management Policy
- Council Plan 2023 -33
- Strategic and Operational Risk Plans
- Volunteer Policy
- Working with Children Checks Policy

7. Related local law and legislation

- 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) Act 2004

8. Related delegation

Nil

9. Document Control and Review History



Owner: Manager Community Development

Approval body: Council

Review frequency: Biennial

Document Responsibilities			
Version	Approved date	Reference	Summary of changes
V1.0	19/11/2025	Report CSD05.11.25	First approved version

Next Review Date: **30/11/2027**