

# Child Safety Club Briefing



**Be  
Safe**



**Respected**



**Be Heard**



**Speak Up**

# The facts

- Child sexual abuse is one of the most significant yet invisible public health issues we face – affecting children, young people, families and communities at all stages of life.
- Child abuse remains out of sight and out of mind as a community concern
- Children are still not trusted to tell the truth, leaving them in danger
- Perception that child abuse does not happen within ‘my community’

*Australian Childhood Foundation Research (2022)*



# Child abuse is everyone's issue

In the 2022-2023 financial year:

- 128,705 child protection reports received (9% increase from 2021-2022)
- 16,778 substantiations (4% increase from 2021-2022)

# The Impacts

- Approximately 2.5 million Australian adults (13%) have experienced abuse during their childhood. This includes 1.6 million adults (8.5%) who experienced childhood physical abuse and 1.4 million adults (7.7%) who experienced childhood sexual abuse.
- The majority of people who experienced childhood abuse knew the perpetrator;
- Those who experienced childhood abuse were:
  - twice as likely to experience violence as an adult compared to those who did not experience abuse (71% compared to 33%);
  - three times more likely to experience partner violence as an adult than those who did not experience abuse (28% compared to 8.9%);

*Australian Bureau of Statistics (2019)*

# Child Abuse

Child abuse can include physical abuse, sexual abuse, grooming, emotional or psychological harm, neglect or family violence.

It doesn't have to involve physical contact or force. Child abuse can include:

- talking to a child in a sexually explicit way
- grooming a child for future sexual activity
- forcing a child to watch pornography
- being witness to family violence
- failing to provide a child with an adequate standard of nutrition, supervision or medical care to the extent that their development of the child is placed at serious risk, or is significantly impaired.

# Child Safe Organisations

- A child safe organisation takes deliberate steps to safeguard children from physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse and neglect.
- All children have the right to feel safe and be safe, but safety does not just happen.

# The legislative requirements

## FAILURE TO DISCLOSE

- An offence that applies to **all adults (not just professionals who work with children)** who form a reasonable belief that another adult may have committed a sexual offence against a child under 16 years of age and fail to report this information to the Victoria Police. Failing to disclose a sexual offence based on concerns for the interests of the perpetrator or organisation (e.g. concerns about reputation, legal liability or financial status) are not regarded as a reasonable excuse.

## FAILURE TO PROTECT

- An offence that applies to a person in a position of authority within an organisation who: knows of a substantial risk that a child under the age of 16, under the care, supervision or authority of the organisation will become a victim of a sexual offence committed by an adult associated with the organisation (e.g. employee, contractors, volunteer, visitor); and negligently fails to remove or reduce the risk of harm.

# The legislative requirements

## GROOMING

- Grooming is when a person engages in predatory conduct to prepare a child or young person for sexual activity at a later time. Grooming can include communicating or attempting to befriend or establish a relationship or other emotional connection with the child or their parent or carer.

## REASONABLE BELIEF

- A reasonable belief is a belief based on facts that would lead a reasonable person to think that reportable conduct may have occurred. A reasonable belief is more than suspicion. There must be some objective basis for the belief. However, it does not require certainty. Once a reasonable belief has been formed, it is not your role to investigate. This is the role of DHHS Child Protection or Victoria Police.



# Victoria's Child Safe Standards

Plain language summary

1

Your organisation welcomes Aboriginal children. You support them to express their culture and to enjoy their rights. You don't allow racism.



2

Child safety is important to everyone at all levels in your organisation. You document how you find, avoid, and stop risks of child abuse or harm.



3

Your organisation supports children to know their rights to be safe from abuse, informed, and involved. You help them to talk openly and take part in decisions that affect them.



4

Your organisation tells families and the community about what you do, and how you keep children safe from harm and abuse. You help families to have a say and to take part in decisions that affect their child.



5

Your organisation understands that every child is different and has different needs. You make sure that they can get the information and help that they need.



6

Staff know what they must do to keep children safe from abuse and harm. They record, report, and share information about child safety when they should. Staff who work with children have had the background checks they need.



7

Children and their families know how to make a complaint and what happens when a complaint is made. Your staff know how to respond properly to complaints.



8

Your organisation trains and supports staff to keep children safe from abuse and harm. Your staff know the signs of child abuse and harm and what to do if there are issues of abuse and harm.



9

Your organisation makes sure children are safe when they use your services, settings, and activities. This includes when children are online.



10

Your organisation checks and improves the ways you keep children safe from abuse and harm.



11

Your organisation has written policies about how you keep children safe from abuse and harm. They are easy to understand, and all staff follow them.



For more information, contact the Commission for Children and Young People  
[www.ccp.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccp.vic.gov.au)



# Child Safety Officers (CSO's)

- Promote the message of child safety around the club
- Ensure that Child safety is continually on the agenda at the club
- Remind the club committee of the club's legal child safety requirements
- Contribute to the development and implementation of the club's child safety requirements.

# OEFN Child Safety Club Audit

- To be completed annually
- Submitted to OEFN
- Random audits will take place over the course of the year



## Outer East Football Netball Club Child Safety Annual Audit

Club Name:	
Name of person completing audit	
Club position:	
Email Address:	
Phone number:	
Date completed:	

Club's Child Safety Officer:		
Email address:		
Phone number:		

	Yes	No	Notes
Child Safety Officer trained	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
All club executive, staff and volunteers hold valid Working with Children Checks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Working with Children Check Register is up to date and provided to OEFN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Club has own or has adopted OEFN Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Club has own or has adopted OEFN Child Safety Code of Conduct	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

# Further Information

- Resources are available on the OEFN website

Home > Child Safety

Outer East Football Netball (OEFN) is committed to promoting and protecting children and young people from all forms of abuse, racism, neglect and maltreatment.

It is the responsibility of every person, at every level of involvement in OEFN to understand the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make

OEFN has zero tolerance for child abuse and racism and strives to empower children and young people through listening to their concerns and valuing their contributions, especially enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights.

[OEFN Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy 2022](#)

[OEF&N Child Safety Officer Booklet](#)


[Child Friendly Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)

[Working with Children Check Register](#)


[Child Safety Annual Audit](#)

[Child Safety Poster](#)

**Child Safety**  
-play your part-



**Child Safety**  
**Code of Conduct**





# Further Information-AFL Safeguarding Children and Young People

PLAY WAYS TO PLAY COACHES UMPIRES SCHOOLS VOLUNTEERS

Overview Safeguarding Children & Young People

Section 1 Overview

Section 2 Policies & Guides for Clubs

Section 3 Editable Templates, Guides & Posters

Section 4 Resources for Parents, Coaches, Players & Umpires

SUPPORT COPY LINK

## SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

The AFL is committed to promoting and protecting the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people who participate in AFL Football at any level through activities, programs, services and /or use of facilities by fostering a culture where children and young people feel safe and welcome. Everyone who plays Australian Football has the right to Be Safe, Feel Safe, Play Safe.



# Annual Club Actions

- Appoint a Child Safety Officer
- Visit the OEFN website to access resources
- Personalise and adopt Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Publish physically at your club and on the club website:
  - Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
  - Child Friendly Safety Code of Conduct
  - Commitment to Child Safety
- Ensure HR processes up to date (Referee checks, WWCC)
- Committee and Child Safety Officer undertake online child safety training
- Provide a briefing to club coaches, support staff and volunteers about child safety obligation
- Complete and Submit OEFN Child Safety Audit by Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024



# Beginning 2024

The Child Safety Officer should provide a briefing to all club staff and volunteers which includes:

- An outline of the expected standards of behaviour (in person and online) when undertaking their role at the club
- The importance of reporting any concerns that they may have about the safety or wellbeing of a child.
- Steps that they can take if they have concerns

# Beginning 2024

The Child Safety Officer should provide a briefing or communication to all participants and parents which includes:

- Introduce themselves as the Child Safety Officer
- Outline the expected standards of behaviour at the club
- The club priority of the safety and wellbeing of children and will take all matters seriously
- Who they can contact should there be concerns.





Please scan the QR code

