



e-Newsletter

February 2019

Please send this newsletter on to colleagues involved/interested in child safe organisations. To continue receiving the newsletter and updates, [subscribe to Child Safe Organisations updates here.](#)

COAG Endorsement

The Australian Human Rights Commission welcomes the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) endorsement of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. Included in this newsletter is a poster of the ten National Principles. You can download the poster [here](#).

At the request of the Australian Government, the National Children's Commissioner led the development of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, which are based on the ten child safe standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The [National Principles](#) have a broader scope than sexual abuse and cover other forms of harm. They are grounded in a child rights approach, which recognises children and young people as active participants.

They were developed in consultation with national sector peak bodies, national advocacy and research organisations, Commonwealth, state and territory governments and with children and young people themselves. A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this.

The COAG endorsement of the Principles was announced by the Prime Minister on 19 February 2019. You can find the Prime Minister's media release [here](#).

Implementation of the National Principles

All organisations working with children and young people need to consider how they will implement these national principles to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Where is there information, free of charge, to assist in the implementation phase?

To support this phase, the Australian Human Rights Commission's website for Child Safe Organisations is now live! You can access it [here](#).

An introductory video to the National Principles is available on our website. This five minute video provides a helpful overview of the National Principles. You can watch it [here](#).

The Australian Human Rights Commission has also developed practical tools and resources, which are available at <https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/tools-resources>

These tools and resources include:

- The **Introductory self-assessment tool for organisations** which will help organisations consider their current child safe practices and areas for improvement
- The **Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy template** that addresses the ten National Principles
- The **Example Code of Conduct** that organisations can adapt to set out expected standards of behaviour when engaging with children and young people
- The **Charter of Commitment to children and young people template** which would be developed in consultation with children and young people in the organisation
- The **Checklist for online safety**, developed with the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner, that assists organisations to consider potential safeguarding risks and aspects of online safety to better protect children and young people.
- The **Guide for parents and carers** helps parents and carers to think about how an organisation operates and to consider its safety and wellbeing arrangements for children.

What is next?

Currently, the Australian Human Rights Commission is developing e-learning tools for each of the National Principles. These will be available free of charge on our website later this year.



Child Safe
Organisations
National Principles

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

1

Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.

6

Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.

2

Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

7

Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

3

Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

8

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

4

Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

9

Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.

5

People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

10

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.



For information and resources, go to
<https://chidsafe.humanrights.gov.au>