

Child Safe Standards

Making sure they work well

An Easy Read guide



How to use this guide



The Victorian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) wrote this guide.

When you see the words 'we' or 'us', it means DFFH.



We wrote this guide in an easy to read way.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.

Bold

We wrote some important words in **bold**.

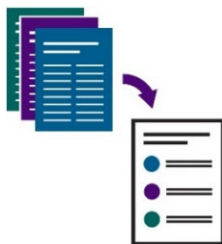
Not bold

This means the letters are thicker and darker.



We explain what these bold words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 19.



This Easy Read guide is a summary of another document.

This means it only includes the most important ideas.



You can find the other document on our website.

<https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards>



You can ask for help to read this guide.

A friend, family member or support person may be able to help you.

What is in this guide?

What is this guide about?	4
<hr/>	
Why did the Victorian Government change the Standards?	8
<hr/>	
What are the Standards?	10
<hr/>	
Who must follow the Standards?	16
<hr/>	
Word list	19
<hr/>	
Contact us	21

What is this guide about?



The **Victorian Child Safe Standards** are rules everyone must follow to keep all children safe.

We just call them the Standards.

When we say 'everyone', we mean:



- the Victorian Government



- organisations who work with children, like schools



- businesses that provide services to children.



We are part of the Victorian Government.



Our job is to help make communities and services better for everyone.



This includes services for children and young people to keep them safe.



The Standards protect children and young people.
This includes children and young people with disability.



The Standards help protect the **rights** of children and young people.



Rights are rules about how everyone should be treated:

- fairly
- equally.



The Standards also help support the wellbeing of children and young people.



This includes their:

- physical wellbeing – how your body feels
- mental wellbeing – how you think and feel.



In 2019, the Victorian Government **reviewed** the Standards.



When you review something, you check to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.



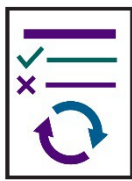
The Victorian Government asked the community to have their say about the Standards.



They worked out how to make the Standards better.

Then they changed the Standards.

In this guide, we explain:



- why the Victorian Government changed the Standards



- what the new Standards are



- who must follow them.

Why did the Victorian Government change the Standards?



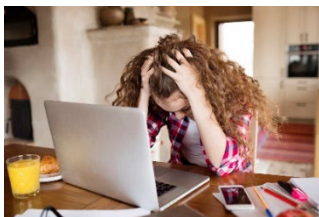
The Victorian Government want to include families and communities in what organisations do to keep children and young people safe.



They also want to focus on keeping First Nations children and young peoples safer.



It is important we all make sure children and young people are not at risk of **online abuse**.



Online abuse is when someone goes on the internet to:

- make you feel bad
- control you.



They might use a phone or tablet to do this.



Organisations are doing work now to keep children and young people safe.

This will help them follow the new Standards.



When the new Standards start, these organisations might change their **child safety policy**.



A child safe policy is a plan that explains how organisations will keep children safe.

Organisations might also need to change:

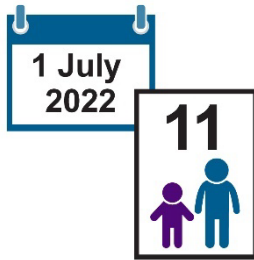


- how they keep children safe



- their workplace culture – how people feel or behave when they are at work.

What are the Standards?



From 1 July 2022, there will be 11 Standards.

Standard 1



Organisations must be safe for First Nations children and young peoples.



And they must treat First Nations children and young peoples with respect.

Standard 2

Organisations must do more to focus on:



- keeping children and young people safe
- improving the wellbeing of children and young people.



This includes the organisation's:

- leaders
- staff.



This will help improve the organisation's workplace culture.

Standard 3



Organisations must support children and young people to understand their rights.



And they must support children and young people to take part in decisions that affect them.

This includes making sure other people listen to what they have to say.

Standard 4

Families and communities must have support to:



- get information they need



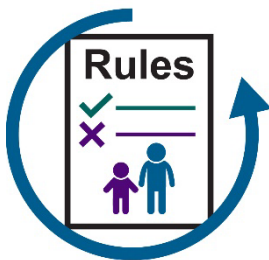
- speak up about a child or young person's safety and wellbeing.

Standard 5

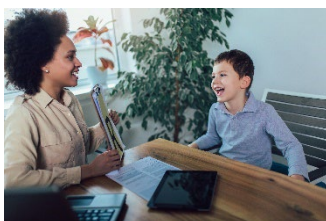


When something is **inclusive**, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



Plans or rules about children and young people must be inclusive.



And these plans and rules must treat children and young people with respect.

Standard 6



People who work with children and young people must:

- be the right person for the job
- get the support they need.

Standard 7



When you make a **complaint**, you tell someone that something:

- has gone wrong
- isn't working well



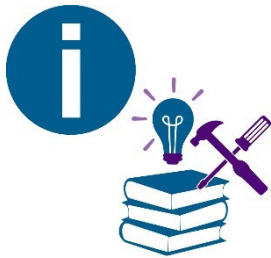
When someone makes a complaint, organisations must put the child and young person's needs first.



This includes when people share what they are worried about.

Standard 8

People who work with children and young people must:



- have the right information and skills to keep them safe



- take part in lots of learning and training.

Standard 9

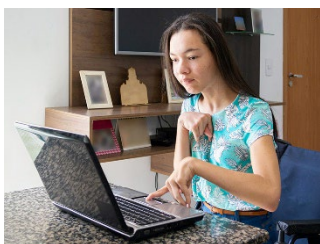


Children and young people must have safe environments.

These environments can be:



- physical, like a park or building



- online, like a website or online chat.

Standard 10



Organisations must review how well they follow the Standards.

And look for new ways to keep children and young people safe.



For example, someone might make a complaint to an organisation.

If this happens, the organisation might change their plans or rules to make them better.



We must make sure the new Standards work well.

Standard 11



Organisations must write a document that explains how they keep children and young people safe.

Who must follow the Standards?



Organisations who work with children and young people in Victoria must follow the Standards.

These organisations can be:



- for young people



- disability services for children



- different areas in our government.



The Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website has more information about who must follow the Standards.

www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards

Who will make sure everyone follows the Standards?



A **regulator** makes sure:

- everything works well
- everyone follows the rules.



CCYP is a regulator.



They make sure organisations who work with children and young people follow the Standards.



They also work with other regulators to make sure this happens.



There are some organisations the Victorian Government:

- manage
- fund – they give them money to pay for important services.



We make sure these organisations follow the Standards.



We will share information about how regulators will make sure everyone follows the Standards.



We will share this information when it's ready.

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this document mean.



Child safe policy

A child safe policy is a plan that explains how organisations will keep children safe.



Complaint

When you make a complaint, you tell someone that something:

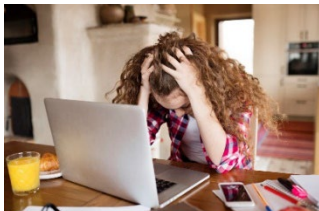
- has gone wrong
- isn't working well



Inclusive

When something is inclusive, everyone:

- can take part
- feels like they belong.



Online abuse

Online abuse is when someone goes on the internet to:

- make you feel bad
- control you.



Regulator

A regulator makes sure:

- everything works well
- everyone follows the rules.



Review

When you review something, you check to see what:

- works well
- needs to be better.



Rights

Rights are rules about how everyone should be treated:

- fairly
- equally.



Victorian Child Safe Standards

The Victorian Child Safe Standards are rules everyone must follow to keep all children safe.

We just call them the Standards.

Contact us



You can call us.

1300 310 778



If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can call the National Relay Service.

133 677



You can send us an email.

childsafeorgs@dffh.vic.gov.au



You can visit our website.

<https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards>



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In this document, 'Aboriginal' refers to both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

'Indigenous' or 'Koori/Koorie' is retained when part of the title of a report, program or quotation.

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