



Child Safe Standards Statement of Commitment

Warrandyte Historical Society

Our Commitment to Child Safety

The Warrandyte Historical Society is committed to providing a child safe and child friendly environment where children and young people are safe, respected, valued, and encouraged to reach their full potential. We are dedicated to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children who visit, participate in, or are associated with our Society’s activities, displays, and events.

We have zero tolerance for child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures. We are committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks. All volunteers who are likely to encounter children in their volunteer activities are required to have a valid Working With Children Check.

The Warrandyte Historical Society acknowledges the importance of the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with a disability. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff, volunteers, and members.

We are committed to compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards and will continually review and improve our practices to ensure the highest levels of child safety.

Legislated Child Safe Standards (Victoria)

The following table outlines the eleven Child Safe Standards legislated in Victoria, which guide our commitment and practices:

Standard	Description
Standard 1	Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of

	Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.
Standard 2	Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
Standard 3	Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
Standard 4	Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
Standard 5	Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
Standard 6	People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
Standard 7	Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused.
Standard 8	Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
Standard 9	Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
Standard 10	Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
Standard 11	Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

Ongoing Action

The Warrandyte Historical Society will:

- Continue to review and develop our child safe policies and procedures in accordance with the Child Safe Standards.
- Provide ongoing training and support for our staff and volunteers regarding child safety.
- Encourage the involvement and feedback of children, families, and the community in our child safe initiatives.
- Maintain an up-to-date WWCC register of volunteers.

- Respond promptly and appropriately to any concerns or allegations of child abuse.

By embedding child safety in every aspect of our organisation, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people.

Definitions

The **Child Safe Standards** are a set of 11 requirements that aim to create and maintain child safe environments including the prevention and response to sexual, physical, emotional, and psychological abuse, as well as serious neglect of children and young people under the age of 18 years.

The Child Safe Standards aim to:

- Promote the safety of children and young people
- Prevent child abuse
- Ensure organisations and businesses have effective processes in place to respond to and report all allegations of child abuse.

The Child Safe Standards work by:

- Driving changes in organisational culture – embedding child safety in everyday thinking and practice
- Providing a minimum standard of child safety across all organisations
- Highlighting that we all have a role to keep children and young people safe from abuse.

Types of Child Harm and Abuse

Type	Description
Physical Abuse	Non-accidental infliction of physical violence, which injures or harms a child.
Sexual Abuse	When an adult uses force or power to involve a child in sexual activity.
Emotional/Psychological Abuse	Rejecting, isolating, excluding, threatening, verbal abuse, coldness.
Neglect	Failing to meet a child's basic needs; food, drink, clothing, hygiene, medical attention, supervision.
Family Violence	Any violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour in a domestic setting.
Grooming	When an adult communicates and/or attempts to establish a relationship to

	prepare a child for sexual activity at a later time.
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Endorsed: 17 December 2025

To be reviewed: December 2026