

CD012	CHILD SAFE AWARENESS		
POLICY OWNER:	Shire of Carnarvon		
DEPARTMENT:	Executive		
CREATION DATE:	20/06/2023	REVIEW SCHEDULE:	Annually
RELATED PROCEDURES:			
RELATED FORMS:			
RELATED DELEGATIONS:			
RELATED POLICIES:	· Employee Code of Conduct · Information Technology Policy · Record Keeping Policy · Strategic Community Plan · Working with Children Checks Policy		
LEGISLATION:	· Child Care Services Act 2007 · 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		
DOCUMENT CONTROL			
DATE REVIEWED:	REVIEWED BY:	CHANGES (IF ANY):	ENDORSED BY COUNCIL:
26/04/2023	A. Leighton	Creation	OCM26/04/23
28/05/2024	Council	Minor Changes: Refer to Council Minutes	OCM 12/05/24

CD0011 Child Awareness

OBJECTIVE

This policy aims to reduce the risk of harm and child sexual abuse in our communities by encouraging child safe environments to be created and maintained. Shire of Carnarvon is committed to encouraging local organisations to be child safe and ensure children are safe and empowered.

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 Shire of Carnarvon, regardless of their work related to children or young people. It applies to occupants of Shire of Carnarvon facilities and venues, including visitors, contractors and suppliers.



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.

POLICY STATEMENTS

Shire of Carnarvon supports and values all children and young people. Shire of Carnarvon makes a commitment to support the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people, including protection from abuse. This Child Safe Awareness policy is one of the ways Shire of Carnarvon demonstrates its commitment to being child safe and a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.

This policy aims to reduce the risk of harm and child sexual abuse in our communities by encouraging child safe environments to be created and maintained. Shire of Carnarvon is committed to encouraging local organisations to be child safe and ensure children are safe and empowered.



This Child Safe Awareness policy has been developed in response to recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and recognises that Shire of Carnarvon is uniquely placed within the local community to demonstrate leadership by supporting organisations to be child safe and to protect children and young people from harm and/or abuse. Shire of Carnarvon will promote the safety and wellbeing of children across the community.

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

POLICY PRINCIPLES

- 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.

POLICY FUNCTIONS

Shire of Carnarvon 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 Shire of Carnarvon 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).

RESPONISBILITIES

Shire of Carnarvon has a leadership role in our community to support relevant organisations to be child safe and promote child safe practices.





Although Shire of Carnarvon 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 Shire of Carnarvon facilities to operate in alignment with the Child Safe Awareness policy.

Shire of Carnarvon will determine which roles across the organisation will directly support the implementation of the Child Safe Awareness policy.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

N/A