

Child Safe Newsletter

Wyndham Community & Education Centre

Volume 2

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Wyndham
Community &
Education Centre Inc.
Improving lives - Strengthening communities

Dear Staff & volunteers,

I hope you are all coping well in this difficult time working from home and conducting online classes using one of the many platforms available today. The main topic this term is about the online environment and focuses mainly on our young people, but everyone should be aware of what is happening on screen if there are children in the background who appear to be at risk.

Remember child safety is everyone's responsibility.

Lesley Nallawalla

Child Safety Officer

What are some red flags for child abuse in the online environment that we should be aware of?

- Signs of physical abuse if children are participating in video meetings;
- Yelling or shouting in the background of meetings or communication with children;
- Children verbalising distress and requesting to attend schools physically;
- Signs of neglect such as children being in a different location each time or their location being an unsuitable living environment;
- Material that might come through in their other interactions with the organisation (e.g. writing about abusive content in their English assignment); and
- words or behaviour of parents / carers during staff member / parent discussions, such as abusive language towards their child or a lack of interest.

Moores

Wyndham CEC 's Commitment to Child Safety

**Wyndham CEC
wants children to
be safe, happy and
empowered and
supports and
respects children
attending the
Centre, as well as
staff and
volunteers.**

Child Abuse Myths and Truths:

Myth: Children 'get over' bad experiences in childhood

Truth: Adults are often deeply affected by childhood trauma and abuse. You can't just 'get over' it. Survivors need the right care and support to overcome the impacts of abuse, recover and live full and healthy lives.

Myth: People who sexually abuse children are mentally ill..

Truth: Most people who sexually abuse children are not mentally ill. They are often married and/or have sexual relationships with adults. In anonymous surveys, a significant minority of men in the community indicate a sexual interest in children

**"We cannot always build
the future for our youth,
but we can build our
youth for the future."**

Franklin D Roosevelt