

Child Safe Newsletter

Wyndham Community & Education Centre

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

Dear Staff and volunteers

Children and young people have unique insights into their lives, needs and the world around them. It is their human right to be heard on matters affecting their lives. Young people have much to offer organisations who engage them, listen and take their concerns seriously

Remember child safety is everyone's responsibility.

Lesley Nallawalla

What is empowerment and why is it important?

Children and young people have much to offer organisations. Their ability to participate develops as they build skills, knowledge and confidence in themselves and others.

Wyndham CEC established Student Reference groups, consisting of staff & young people, in 2018.

“Empowering children and young people does not just improve their safety and wellbeing, it also promotes a healthy organisational culture that is consultative, collaborative and open to feedback and improvement.”

During the meetings students were asked for their definition of abuse, where they feel safe and what, if anything makes them feel unsafe at Wyndham CEC. Most said they feel very safe at Wyndham CEC but came up with some good ideas to improve their feelings of safety.

They thought that having the Child Safe Statement in the visitors sign in books and having staff wear hi-vis vests on yard duty were very important and these were implemented straight away. Many of the other suggestions (see below) were already in place or have now been implemented.

This is an ongoing very valuable process that the students willingly continue to be part of.

Outcomes from Student Reference Group Meetings

Students were asked what makes or could make them feel safe at Wyndham CEC and why. Answers included:

- Gate with a self-locking electronic gate timer locked during class time
- Security cameras
- Staff on yard duty in Kelly Park
- Evacuation and lock down practices (OHS)
- Staff supportive and encouraging
- Have child safe statement in visitors sign in book
- Staff wear hi-vis vests on yard duty
- Visitors to wear lanyards when visiting
- Visitors signing in and out in Admin
- Child Safe Officer
- Wyndham CEC's Commitment to Child Safety statement clearly displayed

Wyndham CEC's Commitment to Child Safety

Wyndham CEC is committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.

We must protect families, we must protect children, who have inalienable rights and should be loved, should be taken care of physically and mentally and should not be brought into the world only to suffer.

Indira Gandhi

Wyndham CEC's Statement of Commitment

Wyndham CEC is committed to Child Safety

Has zero tolerance of child abuse

And actively works to protect and empower children

Useful Support Services

Helping children and young people to... Speak up and make a complaint

Advice for parents Parentline Victoria > 13 22 89 parentline.com.au

Online and phone counselling for children and young people Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800 or counsellor@kidshelpline.com.au > kidshelpline.com.au

Mental health support for children and young people headspace and eheadspace > [headspace](http://headspace.org.au) (Werribee- 8001 2366 headspace.org.au)

Information about children's rights Australian Human Rights Commission > childsafe.humanrights.gov.au

Complaints about a government organisation Search online for Children's Commissioner / Guardian or Ombudsman in your State or Territory Help for non-English speaking people Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) National > tisnational.gov.au

24-hour telephone assistance is available through:

- **Lifeline - 13 11 14**
- **1800 Respect - 1800 737 732**
- **MensLine Australia - 1300 789 978**
- **Kids Helpline - 1800 55 1800**
- **Beyond Blue- 1300 22 4636**

