

Child Safe Newsletter

Wyndham Community & Education Centre

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

Dear Staff and volunteers

Wyndham CEC promotes the cultural safety of aboriginal, culturally & linguistically diverse, and, children of all abilities through its employment practices, professional development programs, networks and partnerships, and, through specialist staff working across the organisation including; **supporting children of same sex attracted, intersex and gender diverse**

Lesley Nallawalla

Child Safety Officer

It is the duty of child-focused organisations to demonstrate their commitment to the safety and well being of LGBTIQ children and young people, especially given what we know about the stigma and discrimination on mental health.

Wyndham CEC's Commitment to Child Safety

**Wyndham CEC
has zero
tolerance of child
abuse, and all
allegations and
safety concerns
will be treated
very seriously
and consistently
with our policies**

According to Australia's LGBTI Health Alliance, when compared to the general population:

- LGBTI young people aged 16-27 are five times more likely to attempt . Suicide
- Transgender people aged 18 and over are nearly 11 times more likely
- People with an intersex variation aged 16 and over, nearly 6 times more likely

The poorer mental health outcomes for LGBTIQ people are not related to identity; they're related to stigma, abuse and violence.

A message from Child Wise

Child Wise regularly talks to children and young people about safety and they hear time and again that bullying is a major worry. Homophobic and transphobic bullying is rife in organisations. According to Australian research, 61% of same-gender attracted young people have experienced homophobic verbal abuse, and 18% experienced homophobic physical abuse, with 80% of the abuse reported to have happened in schools. Adults in organisations who fail to address bullying are complicit. Organisational policies and procedures must make it clear that bullying will not be tolerated, and adults must nurture a culture where bullying is not only challenged, but seen as abhorrent by everyone. Wyndham CEC has a Child Safe Policy and Code of Conduct all staff must abide by.

Child Wise was the first organisation to develop Child Safe Standards, and one of the first to provide child safety training and support to organisations that work with children and young people. www.childwise.org.au

**Children do learn
what they live. Then
they grow up to live
what they've learned.**

Dorothy Nolte