

Child Safe Newsletter

Wyndham Community & Education Centre

Volume 4.2

June 2022



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

Dear Wyndham CEC Community

Well it's almost time for the new Child Safe Standards to come into effect. We will be focussing our newsletters on the different standards over the next few newsletters. This time we are going to go into a bit more detail on **Child Safe 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.*

Remember child safety is everyone's responsibility. Lesley Nallawalla. Child Safety Officer Child Safety Officer

What Wyndham CEC already does:



Child Safe 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

- Wyndham CEC has offices and venues on the several different Traditional Aboriginal lands. 20 Synnot St, 4 Synnot St and Wayaperri sit just inside the Traditional Lands of the Bunurong people and the Barwon sites are on the Traditional Lands of the Wadawurrung people.
- VCAL displays the flags of Australia, the Aboriginal Flag and the Torres Strait Island flag with descriptions in the admin area and back court yard.
- Wyndham CEC has an Acknowledgment of Country at both its head office and VCAL premises
- Wyndham CEC and VCAL have the Australian, Aboriginal and the Torres Strait Island flags in the foyer at 20 Synnot St.
- VCAL has a Student Reference Group which meets regularly to discuss any safety issues and make suggestions for improvement.
- Wyndham CEC has a Child Safe Policy and Procedure and Child Safe Code of Conduct. The Code is signed by all staff.
- Wyndham CEC has a statement of Commitment to Child Safety (one statement is published in each newsletter).

Wyndham CEC's Commitment to Child Safety

Wyndham CEC is committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and young people (LGBTQI).

The true
character of a
society is
revealed in how
it treats its
children.

Nelson Mandela



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

Cultural safety and why it is important

Cultural safety has been described as 'the positive recognition and celebration of cultures. It is more than just the absence of racism or discrimination and more than 'cultural awareness' and 'cultural sensitivity'. It empowers people and enables them to contribute and feel safe to be themselves'.

Cultural safety for Aboriginal children has been defined as 'the child being provided with a safe, nurturing and positive environment where they are comfortable with being themselves, expressing their culture... their spiritual and belief systems, and they are supported by the carer... (who) respects their Aboriginality and therefore encourages their sense of self and identity'.

Cultural rights are protected in law

Aboriginal cultural rights are protected through a range of Victorian, Commonwealth and international laws, including:

- the [Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)
- the [Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#)
- the [Equal Opportunity Act 2010 \(Vic\)](#)
- the [Racial and Religious Tolerance Act 2001 \(Vic\)](#)
- the [Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 \(Vic\)](#).

Collectively these laws mean that Aboriginal children have the right to know and remain connected to their cultural heritage, take part in their cultural practices, learn and speak their language and learn their histories and traditions.⁴⁷ As well as promoting and protecting connection to culture, some of these laws specifically protect Aboriginal children and their families from racial discrimination and vilification.

In Victoria, the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* (Vic) outlines Aboriginal cultural rights that are distinct and must not be denied to Aboriginal people. Public authorities⁴⁸ must observe these rights. They include the right for Aboriginal people to:

- enjoy their identity and culture
- maintain and use their language
- maintain their kinship ties
- maintain their distinctive spiritual, material and economic relationship with the land and waters and other resources with which they have a connection under traditional laws and customs

For more information click on the link: [CCYP | Resources and support for the Child Safe Standards](#)

Wyndham CEC's Statement of Commitment

Wyndham CEC is committed to Child Safety

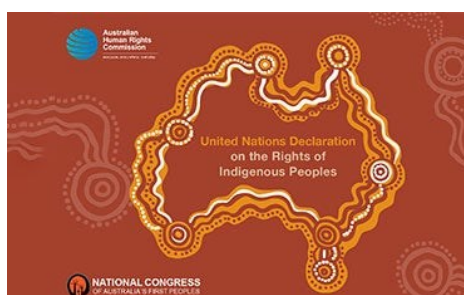
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Useful Support Services

Useful links for cultural safety support:

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



SNAIC—VACCA: <https://www.vacca.org/content/Document/SNAICC-VACCA-OCS-ChildSafeReport-LR-with-alt-tags-May2021.pdf>

Koorie Heritage Trust: <https://korieheritagetrust.com.au/>

The Healing Foundation: <https://healingfoundation.org.au/schools/>

Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre: <https://museums victoria.com.au/bunjilaka/>

Australian Human Rights Commission : Learn about racism | Racism. It Stops With Me (humanrights.gov.au)

Centre for Multicultural Youth: Schools Standing Up To Racism - Centre For Multicultural Youth (cmynet.au)



“Here in **Australia** we're fortunate enough to have one of the richest and **oldest** continuing **cultures** in the world. This is something we should all be **proud** of and **celebrate**.”

Dr Tom Calma AO, Reconciliation Australia Co-Chair

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Parents Information Page

Wyndham CEC has a strong commitment to Child Safety in the VCAL Program as can be seen by the following:

- Wyndham CEC has a designated Child Safety Officer—Lesley Nallawalla.
- If you have any questions she can be contacted on :0409 218 071 or at 20 Synnot St, Head Office
- Wyndham CEC is planning a survey for families/students in VCAL on the new Child Safe Standards
- Wyndham CEC makes it's Child Safe Policy and Procedure readily available on its Website for everyone to see
- Wyndham CEC has a student Reference Group which meets regularly to talk about child safety and all aspects of the Child Safe Standards
- In the past the Student Reference group have come up with several ideas to promote Child Safety in VCAL. These include:
 - a Statement re being a child safe organisation was to be added onto each page of the Visitors sign in/out book. This was to reinforce our commitment to Child Safety. The Statement is: ***Wyndham CEC is committed to child safety and actively works to protect and empower children.***
 - The Procedure for Visitors was updated for all Wyndham CEC venues to discontinue the use of "Visitor Passes" and implement "Visitor Lanyards". Red lanyard allocated for accompanied visitors. Green lanyard for unaccompanied visitors. Red should be implemented at 4 Synnot Street in most circumstances. Unlikely that anyone would be green unless a case-worker already known to them.
- We welcome any feed back from families and young people including ideas for the newsletter. If you have any ideas or suggestions please don't hesitate to contact Teresa at VCAL or Lesley on the number above.

