

Dear Wyndham CEC Community

As Wyndham CEC's Child Safety Officer my role is to provide advice and raise awareness on child safety. Over the last term I have had the pleasure in delivering training on the new Child Safe standards to the staff within the various service units at Wyndham CEC.

This edition of our Child Safety Newsletter reflects:

- The history of Child Safe Standards in Victoria
- Teach your child how to keep themselves safe
- New online safety laws
 - Parent's Information Page
 - Support Services
 - Information from the Senior Secondary Programs Student Representative Group (SRG)

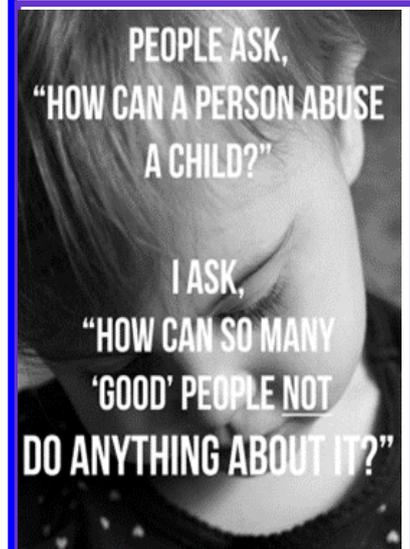
What is the history of child safe standards in Victoria?



Wyndham CEC's Commitment to Child Safety

We promote positive relationships between students and adults and between students and their peers. These relationships are based on trust and respect.

- ◆ The Child Safe Standards emerged from 2 enquiries
- ◆ The original Child Safe Standards were introduced in 2016 following the Victorian Betrayal of Trust Parliamentary Inquiry
- ◆ Not long after the Victorian inquiry ended, the Commonwealth Government's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended that all states and territories align their Child Safe Standards with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
- ◆ In 2019 the Victorian government reviewed the Standards and found strong support for national consistency
- ◆ In 2020, work was undertaken by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to update the Standards, with a focus on:
 - ◆ How best to retain the concept of child empowerment
 - ◆ Include a distinct and explicit focus on cultural safety for Aboriginal children
 - ◆ Aligning Victoria's standards with the National Principles
- ◆ Consultation on the Standards was undertaken in 2020 and 2021 and new Standards were introduced on July 1 2021 and commenced on 1 July 2022
- ◆ As a result, Victoria's Child Safe Standards are now based on the National Principles, with some changes for the Victorian context.



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

Teach your child how to keep themselves safe

As your child gets older, they become increasingly independent and may spend time away from you or with a babysitter/ carer. As part of the journey of growing up, it's important to speak to your child about being safe. Let them know:

Tip 1. It's OK to say NO if they think what they're being asked to do is or feels wrong.

Tip 2. If they feel they're in danger, it's OK to yell, scream, kick or run to a safe place that you and your child have both agreed on – such as a neighbour or friend.

Tip 3. Make sure that you tell your child that you would never send a stranger to pick them up.

Tip 4. They can tell a lie, even to an adult, if they need to get away from someone who makes them feel unsafe.

Tip 5. To use a 'code' word you both have agreed on, to let you know they're not feeling safe; as an example, using your first name when talking to you on the phone.

Tip 6. Their body is their own – once a child no longer needs nappies to be changed or help with toileting, a carer or any other person should not touch their private areas

Tip 7. To tell you or another adult if they have any problems or if someone is making them feel unsafe.

Tip 8. A babysitter or any other adult should not ask a child to keep a secret.

Tip 9. Not to give out personal information online, including their school, suburb, sporting team or nicknames and to never meet someone they have met online in person

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

New online safety laws

The Online Safety Act 2021 is now in place, making it easier to fight the most serious types of online abuse.

What's it about?

The Online Safety Act 2021, introduced by the Australian Government, give eSafety stronger mechanisms to address serious online abuse if it meets the high threshold of being 'seriously harmful' to an individual.

The laws include:

- a new Adult Cyber Abuse Scheme, which focuses on severely abusive content that is menacing, harassing or offensive and intended to cause serious harm to someone who is 18 or older.
 - a stronger Cyberbullying Scheme for seriously threatening, harassing, intimidating or humiliating content that targets a child.
 - an updated Image-Based Abuse Scheme – for intimate images and videos that have been shared without consent.
- And, a more modern Online Content Scheme, to remove illegal and restricted content such as material that encourages terrorism or depicts the sexual abuse of children.

How does it work?

It is important to first report the child cyberbullying or adult cyber abuse to the online platform where the content appeared. If the platform does not respond, a report can be made to eSafety at **[eSafety.gov.au/report](https://www.esafety.gov.au/report)**.

Image-based abuse and illegal or restricted content can be reported to eSafety straight away.

The new laws supports eSafety to work with online platforms to remove the harmful content. Online platforms include social media companies, websites, messaging services, chat apps and gaming platforms. The harmful content can include posts, comments, emails, messages, memes, images and videos.

If the content is not removed, eSafety can have the online service provider fined. eSafety can also have a fine issued to the person who posted or shared the adult cyber abuse, cyberbullying content or image-based abuse.

Can I make a report on behalf of someone else?

If you are a parent, carer or guardian of a child, you can make a report about cyberbullying on their behalf. You can also make a report on behalf of an adult individual if they have authorised you to do so. You can report through [eSafety.gov.au/report](https://www.esafety.gov.au/report).

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

Parents Information Page

Wyndham CEC has a strong commitment to Child Safety in the Senior Secondary-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



Support Services

- **CHILD FIRST** <https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/referral-and-support-teams>
- **ORANGE DOOR** <https://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence/the-orange-door.html>

24-hour telephone assistance is available through:

- **Kids Helpline (5 to 25 year olds)- 1800 55 1800**
- **Beyond Blue- 1300 22 4636**
- **Lifeline - 13 11 14**
- **1800 Respect - 1800 737 732**
- **MensLine Australia - 1300 789 978**
- <https://www.esafety.gov.au/>
- **If you have been scammed online, visit www.scamwatch.gov.au.**
- **If you have been a victim of cybercrime, call the Australian Cyber Security Hotline on 1300 292 371 or visit www.cyber.gov.au.**

The eSafety Commissioner website also has information to help parents with their children/young people if they are having any concerns or problems with social media or online activity. [CCYP | Resources](#)

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

The Voice of Our Young People.

I extend a very warm welcome to the young people in our Senior Secondary Programs and look forward to their contributions to our Newsletters.

About the Student Representative Group

The SRG work to represent students' interests and needs in various ways. They take action to bring about positive changes that will benefit the students and the whole community at Wyndham CEC in the Senior Secondary Programs. Our SRG is made up of a group of students together with two staff members who meet regularly, both formally and informally.

The SRG will be able to discuss, debate and help to decide on a broad range of areas: facilities, rules, curriculum, student wellbeing, etc.

How to be an upstander:

An upstander is someone who chooses to support a person who is being abused or harmed. There are ways you can be an upstander online while keeping yourself safe.

In short:

- If you choose to support someone who's being bullied or abused online, you've chosen to be an upstander.
- If you feel safe, you can stand up to the person who is bullying or abusing others.

Even privately supporting the person being targeted or reaching out to get help from someone else can make a big difference.

What is an upstander?

If you see something that's not OK, like bullying or other abusive behaviour online, you have a choice: support the targeted person, or do nothing and keep scrolling.

If you decide to help, you've chosen to be an upstander.

Situations you may see that are not OK:

- People making hurtful comments about someone in a gaming chat.
- Nasty rumours being spread about a person through direct messages.
- Memes being posted to make fun of a person 'as a joke'.
- A fake social media account being set up in someone's name to embarrass them or send nasty messages to their friends.
- Someone's nudes being shared when they were meant to be kept private.

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

The Voice of Our Young People.

How can I be an upstander?

By doing something to help a person being bullied or abused online, you can be part of creating a positive cultural change.

A lot of people want to help if they see others being harmed online, but they don't know how to, or they worry they'll be attacked for speaking up. There are some ways to support the targeted person and help them feel less isolated while still keeping yourself safe.

Depending on your style, what you feel confident doing and how someone is being bullied or abused, you may choose a different way to help each time, and that's OK. All the options can have a huge positive impact. Here are some you can try on their own or combined with each other.

Reach out to the person being bullied or abused

Send a message to the person being bullied or abused. Ask if they're OK and offer your support. Whether they're your friend, or someone you only kind of know, a few words of support can go a long way.

Remember to use supportive language. It's important to avoid phrases that might make them feel worse, like 'You must be so embarrassed' or 'I would want to die if I were you'. You could say 'Hey are you OK? I saw what was posted and it's not cool'.

Call out the bad stuff online

If you feel confident and safe, speak up about the bullying or abuse you see online. It could be as simple as posting a comment, GIF or meme that says 'This is not OK'.

Or you could show your support by leaving a positive comment about the targeted person, such as saying what you like about them. This can take some of the impact away from the bad stuff and help the person feel better.

Even if you're not the one who was targeted by bullying or abuse, you can report it to the site, game or app where it happened. This helps to keep everyone safe online. Collect evidence as proof and check The eSafety Guide for links.

Say something to the person being mean

If you feel like someone is taking things too far online, think about reaching out to them privately to let them know what they're doing could be causing harm. Maybe they're unaware of how they're making the other person feel. Or maybe they know it's mean, and hearing that you think it's not cool will help them change their behaviour.

Call in other support

It's important to call in other support if the drama is getting serious or the person who was bullied or abused seems really affected by what was posted online about them – maybe they're not turning up to school or they seem really withdrawn or less talkative.

Talk to a trusted adult like a parent, teacher or older sibling so they can help you work out what to do. You could show this page to them, to help explain what's happening. Or you could get advice about what to do from a free, confidential counselling and support service like Kids Helpline (for young people up to 25).

Further information: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/young-people/be-an-upstander>