



Dear Wyndham CEC Community

Welcome to the first Child Safety and Wellbeing Newsletter for 2023. Many of you will have sat through a short presentation on the new child safe standards and now understand the importance of these standards and Wyndham CEC's responsibilities in upholding them. As you can see from the information below as a non-school senior secondary provider and an RTO it is very important that everyone working at Wyndham CEC complies with and has an understanding of the child safe standards even if you don't work within those service units. This newsletter is a reminder of the standards

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

On 1 January 2023, the VRQA became the sole regulator of compliance with the new Child Safe Standards (including Ministerial Order No. 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises) for:

- non-school senior secondary or foundation secondary providers
- registered training organisations (RTOs) who are regulated by the VRQA.

As part of these changes, the VRQA has additional legislative powers, including the power to issue a Notice to Produce documents or information, and a Notice to Comply.

If a notice is not complied with the VRQA can:

- apply to the Court for a Declaration of failing to comply, or an order to pay a pecuniary penalty
- issue an official warning that the VRQA suspects certain things, including a failure to comply with the Child Safe Standards
- prosecute a provider for the offence of failing to comply.

Where a provider is convicted or the Court makes a Declaration, the VRQA can apply to the Court for an adverse publicity order and publish details of the non-compliance on our website.

Wyndham CEC's Commitment to Child Safety

**Wyndham CEC
is committed to
training and
educating staff
and volunteers
on child abuse
risks because
child safety is a
shared
responsibility.**

**If you can help a
child you don't
have to spend
years repairing an
adult.**

The changes also mean VRQA Authorised Officers for all its regulated education providers have the power to search premises, inspect and seize documents, and to observe and record activity at the premises.

Ensuring the safety of children and young people is paramount. The VRQA's regulatory approach is to assist providers to comply through guidance and support. However, where necessary, the VRQA will use its existing and new regulatory powers to ensure children and young people are learning in safe environments.

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

11 Standards in Victoria

NEW CHILD SAFE STANDARDS

- 1** Culturally safe environments – 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.
- 2** Leadership, governance and culture – Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- 3** Child and student empowerment – Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- 4** Family engagement – Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- 5** Diversity and equity – Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
- 6** Suitable staff and volunteers – People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- 7** Complaints processes – Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused.
- 8** Child safety knowledge, skills and awareness – Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- 9** Child safety in physical and online environments – Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
- 10** Review of child safety practices – Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
- 11** Implementation of child safety practices – Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

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

Ministerial Order 1359

The Senior Secondary Education Program (formerly VCAL) must also abide by ministerial Order 1359, the objective of which is to specify matters regarding:

- a) embedding a culture of 'no tolerance' for child abuse; and
- b) complying with the Child Safe Standards as gazetted by the Minister for Child Protection; and complying with the prescribed minimum standards for the registration of schools in section 4.3.1(6)(d) and school boarding premises in section 4.3.8C(1)(d) of the Education and Training Reform Act 2006

Child Safe Standard 8 – Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training

Standard 8

In complying with Child Safe Standard 8, an organisation must, at a minimum, ensure:

8.1 Staff and volunteers are trained and supported to effectively implement the organisation's child safety and wellbeing policy.

8.2 Staff and volunteers receive training and information to recognise indicators of child harm including harm caused by other children and young people.

8.3 Staff and volunteers receive training and information to respond effectively to issues of child safety and wellbeing and support colleagues who disclose harm.

8.4 Staff and volunteers receive training and information on how to build culturally safe environments for children and young people.

As you can see as an organisation regulated by the VRQA and also Ministerial Order 1359 Wyndham CEC has a huge responsibility to comply with the Child Safe Standards. This means all staff must share this responsibility.

We will be talking about the different types of child abuse and cultural safety in future newsletters.

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/>

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](#)