

Child Safe Awareness Policy

Responsible Division	Community Services
Responsible Business Unit	Recreation Services
Responsible Officer	Manager Recreation Services
Affected Business Units	Recreation Services, Community Development
ECM Document Set ID	4782478

Purpose

This Child Safe Awareness policy is one of the ways the City of Bayswater demonstrates its commitment to being child safe and a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.

This policy aims to reduce the risk of harm and child sexual abuse in our communities by encouraging child safe environments to be created and maintained. The City of Bayswater is committed to encouraging local organisations to be child safe and ensure children are safe and empowered.

Scope

The safety and wellbeing of children is everyone's responsibility. This Child Safe Awareness policy applies to all, employees, volunteers, trainees, work experience students, interns, and anyone else who undertakes work on behalf of the City of Bayswater, regardless of their work related to children or young people. It applies to occupants of the City of Bayswater facilities and venues, including visitors, contractors and suppliers.

Definitions

Abuse: Abuse is an act, or a failure to act, towards or on behalf of a child that may result in harm. It can occur on one occasion or multiple occasions. Sometimes the impact of multiple events leads to harm that becomes cumulative in nature. Types of abuse include physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and neglect.

Child/Children: Means a person under 18 years of age, and in the absence of positive evidence as to age, means a person who appears to be under 18 years of age.

Child Safe Organisation: is defined in the Royal Commission Final Report as one that:

- creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing are at the centre of thought, values, and actions
- places emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children and young people
- creates conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people
- creates conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm, and
- responds to any concerns, disclosures, allegations, or suspicions of harm.

Note: in the context of local governments, this would involve referring concerns to the Department of Communities or Western Australian Police to respond as appropriate.

Implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations give effect to the above.

Child safe: For the purpose of this policy, child safe means protecting the rights of children and young people to be safe by taking actions that can help prevent harm and abuse.

Harm: Harm, in relation to a child, means any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's wellbeing, whether caused by a single act, omission or circumstance; or a series or combination of acts, omissions or circumstances.

Wellbeing: Wellbeing of children and young people includes the care, development, education, health and safety of children and young people.

Policy Statement

Policy Principles

1. The City of Bayswater supports and values all children and young people.
2. The rights of children and young people are upheld.
3. Children and young people are respected, listened to, and informed about their rights.
4. Children and young people have the fundamental right to be safe and cared for.
5. Children and young people have the right to speak up, be heard and taken seriously without the threat of negative consequences.
6. The safety and best interests of children and young people are a primary consideration when making decisions that concern them.
7. Access to trusted and reliable information, including the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, helps support organisations to understand what they must do to help reduce the risk of harm and abuse.
8. Communities are informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people including protection from harm.
9. Collaboration with the community and our partners promotes the safety, participation and empowerment of all children and young people.

Policy Functions

The City of Bayswater will ensure the following functions of this policy are resourced and assigned to the relevant officers for implementation.

- Developing a process to deliver child safe messages (for example at the City of Bayswater venues, grounds and facilities or events).
- Connecting and supporting local community groups, organisations, and stakeholders to child safe resources (including culturally safe and inclusive resources).

Related Legislation

National Principles for Child Safety Organisations

Related Documentation

Requirement to Hold a Working with Children Check Policy

Document details

Relevant delegations	Nil.
Risk evaluation	Low
Strategic link	Theme: Community Goal C1: Create safe and inviting places for people to come together
Council adoption	23 July 2024 Resolution 10.5.1.4
Next review due	July 2028