May 2017

CSS

Child Safe Standards
For Faith Communities

Victorian Council of Churches

- For further queries you can email the CSS Worker on vcc@vcc.org.au

- The Training Portal, Toolkit and resources are available at www.childsafestandards.org.au

- The VCC have a dedicated help line for Faith Communities on 03 9650 4511

Reportable Conduct Scheme

Although , we mainly are focusing on the Victorian Child Safe Standards, and assisting Faith Communities in implementing these standards into their organisations, we are wanting to keep you informed of other areas relating to the safety of children.

A Reportable Conduct Scheme is currently being implemented in Victoria, with various organisations being required to report from 1 July 2017.

The scheme will require some organisations to respond to allegations of child-abuse and misconduct made against their workers and volunteers and notify the Commission for Children and Young People of such allegations.
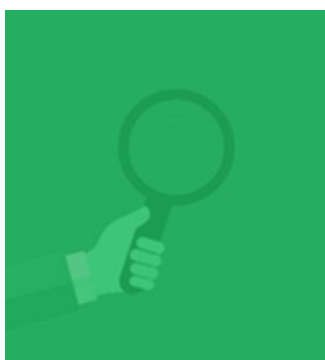
Visit https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme/about-the-reportable-conduct-scheme/ for more information regarding this scheme.

Focus on Child Safe Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

By identifying potential risks before they occur ensures your Faith Community is taking a preventive approach. Risk reduction needs to be planned.

Be proactive to reduce the likelihood of risks emerging or escalating, rather than responding when harm has occurred.

Think about your Faith Community, its activities and the children it provides services to Plan how to make your activities as safe as possible. This is called a 'risk management approach'. Adopt a risk management approach by developing a risk management plan.

Your Faith Community should undertake risk assessments regularly for all activities, programs or events to ensure the safety of children as they participate. Assess for opportunities of abuse to children for all activities, programs or events so that all duty of care has been taken to protect children from abuse.

You regularly need to discuss child safety and risk management with your leaders and your board or leadership. Successful risk management processes are updated and reviewed on a regular basis.

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P: 03 9650 4511
E: vcc@vcc.org.au
W: www.childsafestandards.org.au

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Commission for Children and Young People

- Additional resources and tools are available www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/

- The CCYP have a dedicated help line on 03 8601 5281

- For further queries you can email the CCYP on childsafestandards @ccyp.vic.gov.au

Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People Liana Buchanan

"History tells us we need strong, comprehensive systems in place to make sure allegations of child abuse in organisations are taken seriously, properly investigated and acted on."
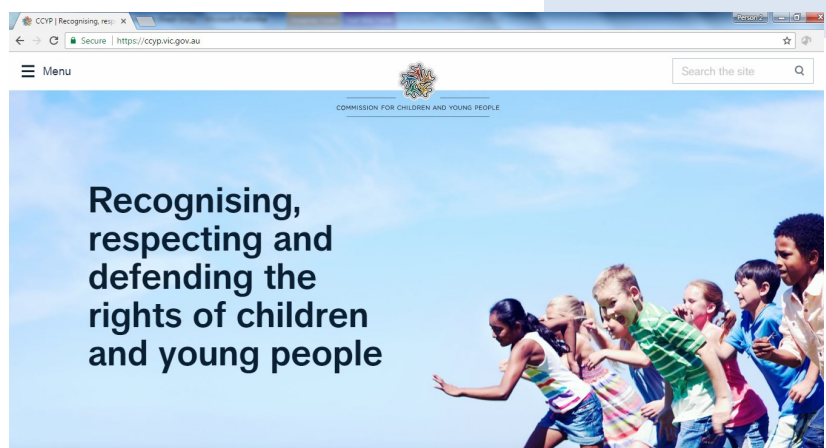
Need more information about the Child Safe Standards?

The Commission for Children and Young People have just updated their website to make it easier to navigate to the areas that you need to be aware of.

Visit their website today at www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/

A risk management plan

- Establish the context of the program or activity.
- Consult and communicate with those will be participating in the program or activity.
- Identify and analyse the risk and potential risks.
- Monitor and review for the program or activity on a regular basis.

Cyber Safety

It is important to keep in mind electronic communication safety, including:

- Cyberbullying,

- Online grooming through messaging or social media applications,

- Utilizing profile privacy settings for each of the relevant social media applications.

For assistance with electronic communications, visit the Australian Government's office of the Children's Esafety Commissioner www.esafety.gov.au.