

New Victorian Child Safe Standard 4



Victorian Child Safe Standard 4: Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

Changes – What's different to our existing framework?

- There is greater emphasis in this standard on understanding and acknowledging that the culture, structure and role of families vary.
- Refer to the Self-Assessment Tool (Standard 3).

Implementation hints:

These implementation hints are not an exhaustive list, but are rather practical suggestions for bringing the standards to life within a parish. Some of these hints may not be relevant to your parish context, so you will need to contextualise the suggestions to reflect your parish setting.

- Aim to be inclusive so that all members of families and communities who want to participate can do so.
- Consider: Are we open and transparent with families about governance arrangements within the parish? How are complaints handled and risks managed?
- Use communication materials (such as posters, newsletter footers, the parish website) to convey the message that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Include updates from safeguarding committee meetings and the PSU in the parish newsletter and on notice boards.
- Hold Masses to celebrate safeguarding events such as the parish's Commitment Statement, Children's Week and Child Protection Week. Identify safeguarding committee members within the parish.
- Provide informed consent to parents and carers through registration or permission forms that detail key information about programs and activities.
- Provide information to families and carers about the parish's approach to safeguarding, such as the Safeguarding Policy and the Code of Conduct.
- Provide regular opportunities to consult with and seek advice and feedback from experts, children, families, carers and communities (for example, through surveys, focus groups and meetings).
- Involve families in the development and review of policies and practices.

Links to additional resources:

- [Child Safe Organisations: Guide for Parents and Carers](#)
- [Protecting God's Children: A Catholic Parent's Guide to Keeping Their Kids Safe](#)
- [Safeguarding Framework Resources \(Translated\)](#)
- [ACSL Implementation Guide: Standard 3](#)
- [CCYP—A Guide for Creating a Child Safe Organisation](#)
- [CCYP—Short Guide to the Child Safe Standards](#)
- [CCYP—Victoria's New Child Safe Standards \(information sheet\)](#)

Where to for support?

You can contact the Professional Standards Unit for support on 9926 5621 / 0448 488 614 or send an email to the team at psu@cam.org.au.

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