

## New Victorian Child Safe Standard 5



### Victorian Child Safe Standard 5: Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

#### Changes - What's different to our existing framework?

- This standard addresses the need for information about complaints processes and supports that is accessible, age-appropriate and available in a range of languages.
- Organisations are asked to pay particular attention to the needs of children with a disability, those who are unable to live at home, and children and young people who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- This standard places a stronger emphasis on the needs of children and young people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, non-binary and gender diverse (LGBTIQ)
- Refer to the Self-Assessment Tool (Standard 4).

#### 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.

- Implement the CAM Safeguarding Policy, and a Commitment Statement, Code of Conduct and a Code of Conduct Declaration that reflect attitudes and behaviours that respect the human rights of all children and young people.
- Ask yourself: Do we know and understand the children within our parish community? How do we ensure that all children are reasonably supported to participate?
- Provide children and young people with information verbally and/or in written form at the commencement of programs, using accessible, child-friendly formats and translated documents where appropriate.
- In various forums, regularly acknowledge the diverse circumstances and experiences (such as foster care, domestic violence and homelessness) that may increase a child or young person's vulnerability.
- Embrace and organise opportunities to celebrate and showcase diversity (e.g. Harmony Day).
- Provide leaders with information about the factors that increase a child's vulnerability to harm. This could be incorporated into training and education sessions, or even parish induction programs for those working directly with children and young people.

## Links to additional resources:

- [INFORMATION SHEET: Promoting the Safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People](#)
- [INFORMATION SHEET: Promoting the Safety of Children and Young People from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse \(CALD\) Backgrounds](#)
- [INFORMATION SHEET: Promoting the Safety of Children and Young People with a Disability](#)
- [INFORMATION SHEET: Promoting the Safety of Same-sex Attracted, Intersex and Gender Diverse Children and Young People](#)
- [Safeguarding Framework Resources \(Translated\)](#)
- [ACSL Implementation Guide: Standard 4](#)
- [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](mailto:psu@cam.org.au).

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