



**LACHLAN SHIRE
COUNCIL**
Wiradjuri Country

CHILD SAFE ORGANISATION COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Adopted 20th March 2024



#ChildSafeStandards

Lachlan Shire Council (council) is committed to being a child safe organisation by being compliant with the Child Safe Standards as legislated, and outlined in the Children's Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Bill 2021.

Children and young people interact with Council in a variety of ways; through attending child specific programs and services, by accessing community services such as libraries, leisure and community centres, by participating in community events or by enjoying parks and open spaces.

Council support and respect all children and young people who live, visit, learn and play within our Shire. We strive to ensure our community is a place where all are valued, respected and above all safe.

Council are working to embed the NSW Child Safe Standards into our organisational culture, leadership and governance structure. We also aim to adopt strategies and act in a manner which puts the interests and rights of children first.



#ChildSafeStandards

In doing this we will ensure that :

Children and young people are an important cohort in our community whose opinions will be sought and respectfully considered about matters that affect them.

Children and young people in our community will have safe and happy experiences when accessing Council facilities, programs, events and activities, or being in the care of our services.

The physical and online environments Council offers to children and young people will promote safety and wellbeing, whilst minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

A culture of safety for children and young people that takes into account their diverse needs will be embedded in Council's governance structure, leadership and staff policies, and promoted to all staff including volunteers and contractors providing direct services to children.

We will promote equity and respect diversity by considering the individual needs of all children and young people particularly First Nations children, children with a disability, LGBTQIA+ children, and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Staff, volunteers and contractors who routinely work directly or near children and young people are screened to ensure they are suitable persons for this work. They will receive appropriate training and support to assist them to keep children and young people safe, and enhance their wellbeing.

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Processes are in place to respond to complaints and concerns about the treatment of children and young people, be that in Council's service or witnessed by our service.

Council will promote child-safety and wellbeing in the community, in families and in the workplace.

Induction and training are part of our commitment. All new employees and contractors will be provided information about our commitment to child safety including our child safe policy and practices. We will support ongoing education and training to our employees, volunteers, and contractors to ensure appropriate practice.

Council will undertake formal reviews of policies and procedures as well as safety audits to identify potential risks to children and young people associated with our service delivery

Our Child Safe Statement of Commitment applies to all employees, volunteers, work experience students, contractors, contract employees and councillors.

Council also encourages the community to speak up when they are concerned or suspect child abuse in any of our workplaces.

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