

Purpose

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 Shire of Boddington (Shire) is committed to encouraging local organisations to ensure children are safe and empowered.

This policy has been developed in response to recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and recognises that the Shire is uniquely placed to demonstrate leadership by supporting organisations to be child safe and to protect children and young people from harm and/or abuse.

Scope

This Policy applies to all employees, volunteers, trainees, work experience students, interns, and anyone else who undertakes work on behalf of the Shire, regardless of if their work is directly related to children and/or young people or not. It also applies to occupants of the Shire's facilities and venues, including visitors, contractors, and suppliers.

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is everyone's responsibility.

Definitions

Term	Meaning
Policy	This the Shire of Boddington policy titled "Child Safe Awareness".
Abuse	An act, or 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	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	<p>Defined in the Royal Commission Final Report as one that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>Note: In the context of local governments, this would involve referring concerns to the Department of Communities or WA Police to respond as appropriate.</p> <p>Implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations give effect to the above.</p>
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	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	Includes the care, development, education, health, and safety of children and young people.

Policy Statement

The Shire of Boddington supports and values all children and young people. The Shire makes a commitment to support the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people, including protection from abuse. This Child Safe Awareness Policy is one of the ways the Shire demonstrates its commitment to being child safe and a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse.

Consistent with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and Commonwealth Child Safe Framework, this policy provides a framework that outlines the role of the Shire in supporting local organisations to be child safe through access to resources, awareness raising, and sharing relevant information.

The Shire is to ensure the following functions of this policy are resourced and assigned to relevant officers for implementation:

- Developing a process to deliver child safe messages (for example, at Shire 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).

Although the Shire is not legally responsible for providing oversight of compliance with child safe practices, it is to take any reasonable steps to engage with persons who utilise Shire facilities to operate in alignment with this policy.

Policy Principles:

- The rights of children and young people are upheld.
- Children and young people are respected, listened to, and informed about their rights.
- Children and young people have the fundamental right to be safe and cared for.
- Children and young people have the right to speak up, be heard and taken seriously without the threat of negative consequences.
- The safety and best interests of children and young people are a primary consideration when making decisions that concern them.
- 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.
- Communities are informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people including protection from harm.
- Collaboration with the community and our partners promotes the safety, participation, and empowerment of all children and young people.

Responsible Officer	Executive Manager Corporate Services
History	Adopted 27 July 2023 (Resolution 88/23)

Delegation	
Relevant Legislation	Child Care Services Act 2007 Children and Community Services Act 2004 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations Commonwealth Child Safe Framework
Related Documentation	Employee Code of Conduct