



The Child Safe Standards

Preamble



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The preamble to the ACT Child Safe Standards states:

Organisations must apply the Standards in a manner that is culturally safe and inclusive for all children and young people, including by respecting and valuing the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and their families.

Purpose of the preamble

This guiding statement underpins how each of the 10 Child Safe Standards should be interpreted and applied. For staff and volunteers, this means your interactions, decisions, and practices must contribute to creating an environment where children and young people are respected, protected, and can participate. This includes confronting your own values and attitudes that can contribute to bias or discrimination, and taking active steps to make sure racism, bullying, and exclusion are challenged and addressed in your organisation.



The Standards seek to affirm the identities and experiences of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, including recognising the impact of colonisation, intergenerational trauma and disadvantage, and systemic racism, while supporting cultural identity and pride.
- Children and young people with disability, including recognising their right to inclusion, communication, safety, and reasonable adjustments.
- LGBTIQ+ children and young people, so they can be themselves and openly express their identity without fear.
- Neurodivergent children and young people, including making adjustments that recognise and respond to 'mainstream' neurotypical biases, and support communication, regulation, and participation.
- Children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including by providing culturally appropriate support and information in preferred languages.