

# Applying Standard 3 to support LGBTIQ+ children and young people

Families and communities are informed and involved



*Organisations engage families and communities in ways that support the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.*

## How to use this factsheet

This factsheet can be used alongside Focus Area 2 of the Child Safe Standards Self-Assessment Tool, which supports organisations to reflect on how active involvement of families and communities contribute to child rights, safety, and wellbeing. This factsheet provides additional context for how organisations can apply Standard 3 in ways that recognise and support the safety of LGBTIQ+ children and young people.

## Applying Standard 3 for inclusive organisations

Families and communities play an important role in supporting the rights, safety, and wellbeing of children and young people. Engaging respectfully with families and communities can help organisations build trust and create environments where children and young people feel supported.

For LGBTIQ+ children and young people, engagement with families and communities may require careful consideration of privacy, safety, and identity. Some children and young people may feel safe discussing their identities with certain adults or communities, while others may not.

***“Privately ask what the family knows”***  
*(Young person, AGA consultation, 2026)*





Some ways that organisations can apply this standard in ways that support LGBTIQ+ children and young people include:

- Recognising that children and young people may have different levels of support from family members or communities
- Communicating the organisation’s commitment to inclusion and child safety
- Communicating with families and communities about the support available to LGBTIQ+ children and young people
- Ensuring communication with families does not unintentionally disclose a child or young person’s identity without consent.

***“Ask beforehand if the young person uses [a] different name or pronouns around certain people”***  
*(Young person, AGA consultation, 2026)*

## **Why this matters**

For some LGBTIQ+ children and young people, supportive families and communities can play an important role in helping them feel safe and valued. Conversely however, some children and young people may be unsure whether it is safe to share aspects of their identity with family members or others in their community.

Organisations can support safety by respecting children and young people’s privacy and ensuring communication with families does not place them at risk. Clear and respectful communication about inclusion can also help families and communities understand how organisations promote the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

## **Impact on LGBTIQ+ children and young people**

If organisations do not consider privacy and safety when engaging with families and communities, LGBTIQ+ children and young people may feel:

- Worried about being ‘outed’ without their consent
- Unsure whether staff will protect their privacy
- Reluctant to seek support or participate in activities
- Concerned their identity will not be respected.



## Tangible actions for organisations

Organisations can support safe engagement with families and communities by:

- **Communicating the organisation’s commitment to child safety and inclusion.** Examples may include sharing policies, statements, or information with families that explain the organisation’s commitment to creating safe and inclusive environments for all children and young people.
- **Respecting the privacy of children and young people.** For example, checking with children and young people about what name or pronouns are safe to use when communicating with family members or others.
- **Providing information and resources for families and communities.** For example, information about the approach to inclusion or links to relevant support services such as A Gender Agenda, Bit Bent, or A to Z.
- **Ensuring staff understand how to communicate safely and respectfully with families.** Examples may include guidance about privacy, confidentiality, and identity safety.
- **Creating opportunities for families and communities to engage with the organisation’s child safe practices.** For example, reviewing and giving feedback on policies and procedures, or small group discussions about child safety.



### Organisations may wish to consider:

- How do we communicate our commitment to inclusion and child safety with families and communities?
- How do we protect the privacy of LGBTIQ+ children and young people when communicating with families?
- What information or resources do we provide to help families understand our approach to child safety and inclusion?
- How do we ensure staff communicate respectfully and safely with families and communities?

#### Find out more

Click here to learn more about the **Child Safe Standards**.  
For information, education, and training visit **[genderrights.org.au](http://genderrights.org.au)**