

Child Safe Standards What Parents and Carers can do!



It is important that as a parent or carer, you can see what an organisation is doing to become safer for your child or young person.



To find out if an organisation is putting the rights, safety, and wellbeing of children and young people at the centre of everything they do, there are lots of things that you can ask the organisation about.

Read on for practical tips and sample questions.

For more information and resources on the ACT Child Safe Standards:

ACTChildSafe.act.gov.au | ACTChildSafe@act.gov.au | 02 6205 2222



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Things you can do today

- Check if the organisation has a **public commitment** statement on their website.
- Is the organisation displaying any **posters** about the Child Safe Standards. If not, you may wish to ask someone in the organisation what they are doing to implement the Standards?
- Look for a **Child Safety Policy** and **Staff Code of Conduct** that is available for anyone to read. If you can't locate one, you can ask to see them. You might also like to read the organisation's complaints handling policy. If these reference the Child Safe Standards, this will be an indication that the organisation has started to think about how they will use the Standards to improve their practices.
- **Listen to and observe** how staff and volunteers speak to and show respect for children and young people's opinions, unique qualities, and boundaries during interactions. Do children and young people seem comfortable around staff?
- If you have concerns about staff and volunteer interactions with children and young people, you can raise this with a member of the leadership team in the first instance. If you still have concerns after speaking with the organisation, you can contact the relevant sector regulator to **seek information and advice**.
- **Talk to your child about safety** and what to do if they ever feel scared, worried, uncomfortable, or confused about something another person is doing.

Questions you may have

You don't have to ask all of these things. Some might be more relevant or of more interest to you based on your experiences, and those of your child.

- What does being **culturally safe and inclusive** mean in this organisation, and what actions are being taken to respect and value the diverse identities and experiences of everyone, especially Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families?
- What is the organisation's stance on **racism, bullying, and discrimination**? Can they explain what 'zero tolerance' means in practice?
- How does the organisation manage the **behaviour of others** (including other service users) to ensure it is a safe and friendly place for children and young people?
- How do staff **address attitudes and behaviours** that create barriers for children, young people, and families with diverse needs, so the organisation is welcoming to everyone?
- How can children and young people **share their views** to help improve the organisation's practices? Do they have a Youth Advisory Group? Are there ways for children and young people to give feedback? Are there ways for children and young people to be **involved in decisions** that affect them?
- How does your child or young person feel when they are there, and what would help them **feel more valued and respected**?



Want more information?
Check out our website.



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