

Applying Standard 2 to support LGBTIQ+ children and young people

Children and young people are informed and involved with their rights



Children and young people have the right to be heard and to participate in decisions that affect them. Organisations support children and young people to understand their rights and create safe ways for them to share their views.

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, engagement, and embracing diversity contribute to child rights, safety, and wellbeing. This factsheet provides additional context for how organisations can apply Standard 2 in ways that recognise and encourage the participation of LGBTIQ+ children and young people.

Applying Standard 2 for inclusive organisations

Participation is an important part of child rights, safety, and wellbeing. When children and young people feel heard and respected, they are more likely to share concerns and seek support. For LGBTIQ+ children and young people, participation may also involve creating environments where they feel safe to express their identities and experiences without fear of judgement or discrimination.



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

- Providing safe opportunities for children and young people to share their views and experiences
- Recognising that some children and young people may not feel safe disclosing aspects of their identity in all settings
- Ensuring participation opportunities are inclusive of diverse identities and experiences

“I want to choose when I get to talk about being queer”
(Young person, AGA consultation, 2026)

Why this matters

For LGBTIQ+ children and young people, being able to participate safely can influence whether they feel comfortable to be themselves and to engage with an organisation. Children and young people may be more likely to share concerns or seek support when they know their views and perspectives will be taken seriously and their identities will be respected.

Participation can also help organisations understand the experiences and needs of LGBTIQ+ children and young people, and identify ways to improve safety and inclusion.

“It’s very nice being able to be myself”
(Young person, AGA consultation, 2026)

Impact on LGBTIQ+ children and young people

If not supported to participate safely, LGBTIQ+ children and young people may feel:

- Reluctant to share concerns or ask for help
- Worried about being judged or misunderstood
- Excluded from decision-making
- Unsure whether their experiences will be taken seriously.

“... having the choice to participate or not participate”
(Young person, AGA consultation, 2026)

Tangible actions for organisations

Organisations can support participation by:

- **Providing clear information about children and young people's rights.** Examples may include displaying child-friendly information about rights, safety, and support services in organisational spaces or on websites.
- **Creating safe opportunities for children and young people to provide feedback.** For example, through surveys, suggestion boxes, youth advisory groups, or informal conversations with trusted staff.
- **Ensuring participation opportunities are inclusive.** Examples may include reviewing whether language, environments, and activities are welcoming for LGBTIQ+ children and young people.
- **Supporting children and young people to choose how they participate.** For example, offering options such as written feedback, small group discussions, or private conversations.
- **Ensuring staff listen respectfully and respond appropriately when children and young people raise concerns or share feedback.** Let children and young people know what actions you will take to respond to what they have raised.



Organisations may wish to consider:

- How do we help children and young people understand their rights and how to raise concerns?
- What opportunities exist for LGBTIQ+ children and young people to share their views safely?
- How do we respond when children and young people raise concerns or provide feedback?
- How do we know whether children and young people feel heard and taken seriously?

Find out more

Click here to learn more about the **Child Safe Standards**.

For information, education, and training visit **genderrights.org.au**

