



# Introduction to the ACT Child Safe Standards

## Background

From 1 August 2024, all providers of services for children and young people in the ACT must start implementing the Child Safe Standards. There are ten Child Safe Standards (the Standards), and they are all equally important.

These Standards are part of the ACT Government's ongoing commitment to improving the rights, safety, and wellbeing of children and young people, and increasing their protection from harm and abuse.



## Why we need the Child Safe Standards

The Standards provide a framework for organisations to improve their practices and better safeguard the rights, safety, and wellbeing of children and young people. This emphasis on care and protection reflects our core societal values and expectations of those who provide these services.

When children and young people feel valued, know their rights, and are empowered to communicate their views, they learn to trust their own judgment and make good choices, even when adults are not there to protect them. They are also more likely to trust that when they raise concerns, these concerns will be taken seriously.



## Creating Child Safe Organisations

Child Safe Organisations seek to ensure that children feel safe and are safe.

When organisations put actions in place to be child safe, they create an environment where children are valued and feel safer, and where abuse of children is better prevented, responded to, and reported.

All leaders, staff, and volunteers providing services for children and young people will need to understand their role in helping their organisation put the standards into action. This includes staff and volunteers who do not need to have a Working with Vulnerable People registration for their job.

## Implementing the Child Safe Standards

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).

While there is no set timeframe for achieving full implementation of the Standards, all organisations should begin implementing them now.

## Resources and support

The ACT Children and Young People Commissioner (CYPC) is available to support organisations to implement the ACT Child Safe Standards Scheme and build their capability to become child safe, child friendly, and child aware organisations.

This support will include the provision of resources, tools, and training to build on the child safety measures that organisations already have in place.

Check out the range of resources that are already available to assist organisations to implement the Child Safe Standards and if you are unsure where to start, please reach out to the CYPC's Child Safe Standards team using the details below.



For more information and resources on the ACT Child Safe Standards Scheme, go to:

[ACTChildSafe.act.gov.au](https://ACTChildSafe.act.gov.au) | [ACTChildSafe@act.gov.au](mailto:ACTChildSafe@act.gov.au) | **02 6205 2222**

