



We offer professional development, training and consultancy for organisations and individuals to understand how to keep children and young people safe from harm.

Child Safe Strategies is an Australian organisation that was established in 2016. We are devoted to the prevention of child sexual abuse through education and training.



Every child has the right to feel safe and be safe

We deliver a variety of training programs and tailor workshops to suit your specific needs, including:

- Government and Not-For-Profit Organisations
- Early Childhood Education Providers
- Residential and Disability Staff
- Foster and Kinship Care
- Sports and Recreation
- Community Groups
- Schools
- Parent Sessions

0466 609 257 | admin@childsafestrategies.com.au

childsafestrategies.com.au

About us:

Child Safe Strategies is an Australian organisation devoted to the prevention of child abuse through education and training. The organisation was established in 2016 to support organisations, clubs, childcare centres, schools, government agencies, and others working with children to create child safe environments to keep children and young people safe.

Many organisations across Australia have implemented the standards and principles to comply with recommendations from state and national Inquiries into the handling of child sexual abuse. Organisations have been vigilant in ensuring that they have child safe policies and procedures in place. Whilst this is a positive step, policies will not keep children safe without a deeper understanding of the complexities around offending. They must also be aware of how offenders groom in organisations to offend against children. Child Safe Strategies provide practical guidance in a safe and informative way, which shows adults what to do and how best to respond if someone has a concern. There are several important steps and tips, and we guide staff through these safely to ensure it is easy to understand.

As new standards come in (Victoria) scheduled for July 2022, this will be an opportune time to review your organisation against the standards/principles and build on future planning. It will also be a good time to provide a refresher for staff, so they are very clear about how to keep children and young people safe and the compliance requirements going forward. Many staff have reported that they are aware that their workplace has a policy, but don't really understand the deeper reasons why this is required. Others advise that they have completed online modules but said that they would like more information and support. We offer training from 1 hour – 2 days depending on specific requirements.

Child sexual abuse is a topic that no one likes to think about, and our trainers are incredibly skilled and experienced to help navigate people through this all-too-often occurrence. Children and young people require adults to keep them safe, whether in an organisation, community or online. Our training is designed to help organisations build their knowledge and capacity to keep children safe from abuse by employees and volunteers whilst providing practicable tips that staff can apply to their own children. **Every child has the right to feel safe and be safe.**

Why invest in training programs?

Child Safe Strategies offers face-to-face and online training in real time for all levels of personnel, including; boards, senior management, staff, volunteers, communities, and parents. We ensure that everyone is informed from the basement to the boardroom and that they feel confident with their role and responsibilities to make sure children can thrive. This is how a child safe culture is truly established. We support schools, sporting clubs, early childhood sectors, recreation, child and family welfare, family violence services, homeless services, disability services, child protection, and parents.

Feel safe and be safe

P. 0466 609 257 | E. admin@childsafestrategies.com.au

W. childsafestrategies.com.au

Benefits of well-informed staff and volunteers:

- Informs staff of the prevalence of abuse so that they understand why a child safe organisation is so important and what this entails.
- Demonstrates a serious commitment to keep children and young people safe for staff, volunteers, parents, and children.
- The training clearly demonstrates to staff that they are supported in doing everything in their influence to keep children and young people safe from abuse.
- Creates a very positive child safe culture across the organisation, it is everyone's business.
- Staff and volunteers learn that simply having a Working with Children Check does **not** keep children safe; this is one of many other components.
- Staff and volunteers feel empowered and confident to speak up if they are concerned about something or identify a potential risk.
- Education and awareness can prevent brand damage and financial loss as communities and funding providers would not consider them if they were not proactive about keeping children safe.
- By educating organisations, potential offenders are likely to be deterred from entering the organisation or motivate those that are there with the intent to offend to self-select out.
- It is likely to increase funding for organisations as parents become more aware of what to look for when choosing a child safe organisation for their children.

The risks if we don't train our people:

In Victoria, a statutory duty of care has been created under the Wrongs Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse) Act 2017 (see Part XIII of Wrongs Act 1958) to ensure there is a clear legal duty placed on organisations to take reasonable steps to minimise the risk of child abuse perpetrated by organisational representatives. This means a child abuse survivor (plaintiff) will have a clear cause of action when commencing legal proceedings against an organisation for the sexual and/or physical abuse of a child. It is then up to the organisation to prove that it **took reasonable precautions** to prevent the abuse. This duty provides clarity for both organisations and survivors of abuse.

An organisation that is not compliant and committed to child safety may not be considered for funding opportunities or may lose funding. The greatest consideration by not training your organisation or club is the devastating impact that abuse has on the child, their family, community, and organisation.

Brand damage can be very long-lasting if the organisation does survive.

Feel safe and be safe

P. 0466 609 257 | E. admin@childsafestrategies.com.au

W. childsafestrategies.com.au

Learning outcomes of various child safe training programs:

- Identifying signs and responding appropriately to child abuse
- Understanding why a clear code of conduct is so pivotal
- Good understanding of why child safe policies and procedures are so important
- Managing disclosures in an effective manner
- Understanding the complexities of grooming
- How to prevent your organisation or club from being a target
- Understanding why children and young people may not disclose
- How to empower staff and volunteers to speak up if they are concerned about something
- How to empower children and young people
- Confidence in responding and reporting
- Understanding how potential perpetrators will target your organisation to offend
- The child safe culture of your organisation will grow
- Creating clear boundaries and safe behaviours
- Safe recruiting processes

Training courses available:

Understanding and responding to child abuse

This is a two-hour course that gives staff and volunteers the understanding and skills to manage concerns. This is suitable for staff in direct and non-direct roles, managers and volunteers. Whilst protecting children and young people, this training also builds your child safe culture.

- Overview of standards
- Legislation
- Duty of care
- Code of conduct
- Identifying signs and responding appropriately to child abuse
- Manage disclosures in an effective manner
- Understand the complexities of grooming
- Responding and reporting
- Empowering children and young people

Feel safe and be safe

P. 0466 609 257 | E. admin@childsafestrategies.com.au

W. childsafestrategies.com.au

Child safe standards and national principles

This is a two-hour session that does a deeper dive into the child safe standards or principles, depending on specific requirements.

- An overview and assessment of where you are in the child safe journey
- Learn how to apply the standards and principles in practice
- Exploration of your strengths and areas for improvement
- How do these keep children and young people safe?
- How do we empower children and young people?

Capacity building for child safe organisations

This is a full day of training that offers a holistic approach to child abuse prevention. It covers the standards and explores what it truly means to be a 'child safe organisation'. It will take into consideration everyone who might play a part in your organisation's work.

- What is a child safe organisation?
- Understanding child abuse
- Managing risk to minimise abuse
- Legislation and obligations
- Governance risk and compliance processes
- An overview of the standards and principles - where you think your organisation sits
- Recruitment practices
- Responding and reporting
- Empowerment of children and young people

Working with families affected by sexual abuse

This is a full day of training, aimed at assisting practitioners to work effectively with families that have been affected by sexual abuse. The abuse may have been perpetrated by a family member or someone connected to the family. By having a deeper understanding of the dynamics, the parent can be supported, which in turn will greatly assist the child or young person on their road to recovery.

- Definition of sexual abuse
- Myths of sexual abuse
- Sexual exploitation and grooming
- Dilemmas experienced by a child who has been sexually abused
- Barriers that prevent disclosures
- Importance of working with the non-offending parent

Feel safe and be safe

P. 0466 609 257 | E. admin@childsafestrategies.com.au

W. childsafestrategies.com.au

Child Safe Champions

This is a 2-day training course that equips those in organisations that have a particular child safe role and/or professionals who have a responsibility to lead the implementation of a child safe environment for children and young people. The Child Safe Champion training is practical and empowers staff across organisations to build confidence and competence in their ability to undertake the Child Safe Champion role. After attending this workshop, you can sign up to the Champions in Practice group where ideas and best practice is shared.

- Context of the Child Safe Champion – Royal Commission
- National principles for a child safe organisation
- Victorian legislation and guidance
- Dynamics of offenders
- Barriers preventing children and adults from reporting abuse and concerns
- Safer recruitment
- Managing risks
- Empowering children and young people
- Self-care

Child safe check for parents

This one-hour session is a friendly and informative session for parents and carers to help them feel more confident in speaking to their children about safety. It is especially helpful for parents who are busy and often time-poor. The session also touches on what to look for when choosing a child safe organisation or club for their children. It provides some practical tips to check in and make sure their children **feel safe** and **are safe**. This training is a must and will also be helpful, given the access children and young people have to the Internet.

- An overview of the prevalence of abuse – knowledge is empowering
- The impact of covid on online targeting
- Stranger danger and why this is not often the case
- Personal safety tips
- Responding if you are concerned about something
- How to be mindful of your language
- How to choose a child safe organisation
- How you can empower your child or young person

Feel safe and be safe

P. 0466 609 257 | E. admin@childsafestrategies.com.au

W. childsafestrategies.com.au

Child safe overview for board members

This presentation can be tailored depending on knowledge and time available for board members. This is a high-level overview that examines research and prevalence of abuse in Australia. We explore the gaps and barriers and how we can build a child safe culture. We also explore the most current misconduct statistics and how we can build a culture that keeps children safe.

- Prevalence of abuse and impact
- Child safe standards and principles
- Legislation and obligations
- Governance risk and compliance processes
- Creating a child safe culture
- Empowering children and young people
- Empowering staff and volunteers

Case notes and court skills

This is a two-hour session to support professionals to effectively record critical client information accurately and feel confident to attend court if required.

- Case notes
- Court processes
- Preparing for court
- Giving evidence

Child sexual abuse is a topic that no one likes to think about, and our trainers are incredibly skilled and experienced to help navigate people through this all-too-often occurrence. Children and young people require adults to keep them safe whether in an organisation, community or online. Our training is designed to help organisations build their knowledge and capacity to keep children safe from abuse by employees and volunteers. It also provides practicable tips that staff can apply to their own children.

Contact us to discuss your training needs.

Debbie Boyse
P: 0466 609 257
E: debbie@childsafestrategies.com.au

Program Manager - Child Safe Strategies

Feel safe and be safe

P. 0466 609 257 | E. admin@childsafestrategies.com.au

W. childsafestrategies.com.au