

Child Safety Statement of Commitment

Compliance

Child Safe Standards Ministerial Order No. 870
Victorian Child Safe Standards: Standard 2

Relevant Legislation

- Working with Children Act 2005 (Vic.)
- Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic.)
- Crimes Act 1958 (Vic.)

In 2014 and 2015 new criminal offences were introduced under this act:

a. Failure to disclose offence

The new offence requires that any adult (aged 18 and over) who holds a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed in Victoria by an adult against a child (aged under 16) disclose that information to police.

b. Failure to protect offence

The offence will apply where there is a substantial risk that a child under the age of 16 under the care, supervision or authority of a relevant organisation will become a victim of a sexual offence committed by an adult associated with that organisation. A person in a position of authority in the organisation will commit the offence if they know of the risk of abuse and have the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but negligently fail to do so.

c. Grooming offence

This offence targets predatory conduct designed to facilitate later sexual activity with a child. Grooming can be conducted in person or online, for example via interaction through social media, web forums and emails.

Related documents

Child Safety Code of Conduct

Child safety Risk Management Policy

Student Support, Access and Equity Policy

Working with Children Check Policy & Procedure

Mandatory Reporting Policy and Procedure

Purpose/explanation

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of Ausdance Vic to the safety, protection and wellbeing of all children and young people in our care. Ausdance Vic has zero tolerance for child abuse and is committed to acting in our student's best interests and in keeping them safe. Children have the fundamental right to be safe from any form of abuse or neglect.

As the peak body for dance in Victoria, Ausdance Vic plays a pivotal role in modelling best practice and behaviour within the dance environment. Ausdance Vic is committed to ensuring compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and in developing and maintaining a child safe culture.

Scope

This policy statement applies to and is binding on, all Ausdance Vic employees, employees and any third party contractors, agents and volunteers working with children on behalf of Ausdance Vic.

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Responsible parties

The Executive Director, Director of Lifelong Learning and the RTO and Education Coordinator are jointly responsible for the implementation and conduct of this policy and related procedures.

Definitions

Child	Any person under the age of 18
Child Abuse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Any act committed against a child involving: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A sexual offence b) The offence of grooming 2. The infliction, on a child of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Physical violence b) Serious emotional or psychological harm 3. Serious neglect of a child
Child Neglect	The failure by a parent or caregiver to provide a child (where they are in the position to do so) with conditions that are culturally acceptable as being essential for the child's physical and emotional development and wellbeing.
Child Safety	All matters related to protecting children from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse and responding to incidents or allegations of child abuse.

Child Safe Principles

Ausdance Vic's commitment to child safety is based on the following overarching principles that guide our organisational culture and support the development and regular review of our work systems, practices, policies and procedures to protect children from abuse.

1. All children have the fundamental right to safety and protection from abuse and neglect.
2. Child safety and protection is a legal and moral responsibility of all employees, contractors and volunteers engaged by Ausdance Vic.
3. Ausdance Vic is committed to providing appropriate training and support to employees to assist in providing a safe environment for children.
4. Students are valued for their individuality and are treated with respect, courtesy and fairness. The views of our students and their privacy are respected at all times.
5. Ausdance Vic has procedures that support the engagement of appropriate personnel to work with children. This applies to all staff, volunteers and third party contractors who have direct contact with children.
6. Policies and Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse are simple and accessible.
7. Students with a disability, vulnerability or from diverse backgrounds have the right to reasonable adjustments and support, including those who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.
8. Ausdance Vic, where possible, will include the views and experiences of children from first nations, diverse backgrounds, and with disabilities in the development of new programs.