



Our Commitment to a Child Safe Culture

The purpose of the *Child Protection Act 1999 (QLD)* is to provide for the protection of children. The underlying principle of the *Child Protection Act 1999* is that all children have the right to protection from harm.

Harm to a child is any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing. It is immaterial how the harm is caused.

Harm can be caused by physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect; or sexual abuse or exploitation.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all employees and volunteers at Community have clear guidelines to assist them in responding to suspicions or allegations of harm to children accessing the service.

Our commitment to a child safe culture

Community Qld offers a range of services that enable us to reach out, advocate, connect and inform. We work with a multitude of people in a range of programs to promote a diverse, socially just and inclusive community. A number of our programs enable us to work directly with families and young children. In recognising that children are vulnerable to the actions of adults we embrace the following:

Statement of Commitment

Community believes that all children have the right to a life that is free from harm. Our services that cater to children aim to provide an environment that is free from any type of abuse or intentional harm. Employees and volunteers at these services are aware of their obligations under the law in regards to the welfare of children and at all times uphold their obligation. Harm to a child is any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing. It is immaterial how the harm is caused. Harm can be caused by - physical, psychological or emotional abuse or neglect; sexual abuse or exploitation.

Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy

Community Qld will comply with legislative framework outlined in the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening Regulations 2011 to keep children and young people safe. In order to comply with the legislative framework, a child and youth risk management strategy must include eight minimum requirements. These requirements are:

- Address the organisation's **commitment** to creating a safe and supportive service environment;
- Strengthen an organisation's **capability** to provide such an environment;
- Assist an organisation to manage any particular **concerns** with respect to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people who are involved with the organisation, and
- Promote the **consistency** of an organisation's approach to risk management, both within the organisation and with respect to compliance with the requirements under the Act.

Further information

If you would like a copy of our Child Protection and Risk Management Policy or speak to someone about our policy please contact Community by telephoning (07) 3510 2700 or email admin@community.org.au

Karen Dare

Chief Executive Officer

6 December 2017