



Supporting our community on all sides

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 Communityfy's Child Protection and Risk Management Policy is to ensure that all employees and volunteers at Communityfy 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

Communityfy Qld offers a range of services that enable us to reach out, advocate, connect and inform. We work with 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

Communityfy believes that all children have the right to a life that is free 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; sexual abuse or exploitation. Harm can be caused by a single act, omission or circumstance or a series or combinations of acts, omissions or circumstances.

Communityfy is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children. Communityfy has zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns must be treated seriously and consistently as per our policies and procedures. In line with our moral obligations to children and young people, we contact relevant authorities when we are concerned about a child's safety.

Communityfy is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks as per our Child Protection and Risk Management Policy and Procedure. Our services that cater to children aim to provide an environment that is free from any type of abuse or intentional harm. Communityfy is committed to safe recruitment procedures, and regularly training and educating staff on child abuse risks. Employees and volunteers at these services are aware of their obligations under the law in regard to the welfare of children and at all times uphold their obligation.

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Communify is committed to providing a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and a safe and accessible environment for children with a disability.

Child and Youth Risk Management Strategy

Communify 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. To comply with the legislative framework Communify's child and youth risk management strategy will include the eight minimum requirements. Communify will:

- 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 to speak to someone about our policy please contact Communify by telephoning (07) 3510 2700 or email admin@communify.org.au

Karen Dare

Chief Executive Officer
5 July 2024

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