

Our Statement of Commitment to Safeguarding Children and Young People from Abuse and Neglect



The Smith Family is working for a better future for young Australians in need by providing long-term support for their participation in education. Every person associated with the delivery of The Smith Family's mission has a role to play in fulfilling our commitment to safeguard children and young people: all directors, employees, volunteers, supporters, partners, and third-party providers must comply with our Framework as it relates to their role.

Our commitment

We are committed, in all that we do, to safeguard children and young people from abuse and neglect and to promote child rights, safety and protection. To enact this commitment, we will work with families and communities to always:

- Act in the best interests of children and young people
- Provide safe environments for children and young people
- Take action to protect children and young people from abuse and neglect.

Act in the best interests of children and young people

We will always act in the best interests of children and young people who are our primary consideration. This is consistent with Article 3 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child*, which Australia ratified in 1990.

Provide safe environments for children and young people

We take seriously our responsibility to always provide safe environments for the children and young people participating in our programs and activities. We work with communities to ensure we are culturally respectful and inclusive. We have adopted and continue to monitor our compliance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations:

1. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them, and are taken seriously.
3. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
5. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
6. Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child-focused.
7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
9. Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

Take action to protect children from abuse and neglect

We will always act to protect children and other vulnerable people from physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and witnessing family and other violence. We act on this commitment by implementing our Child Protection Framework, with which all our team members and volunteers must comply. **The Framework is available on our website, at thesmithfamily.com.au.**

