

We Put Children First

Life Without Barriers recognises that all children and young people, regardless of their age, cultural background, gender or personal characteristics, have important rights, including to:

- Be protected from harm
- A safe and nurturing environment
- Be listened to and valued
- Feel respected
- Experience positive developmental outcomes.

Life Without Barriers is committed to the protection and safety of the children and young people who access our services. We acknowledge that contact and working with children is a critical responsibility. We recognise physical, emotional and psychological safety as the basis for healthy development and wellbeing. Our role is to keep children and young people safe from abuse and neglect. Safety is the first consideration in all of our activities and management practices. This includes protection and safety from all forms of abuse and neglect, including acts of commission and omission, both intentioned and unintentional, caused by individuals and/or from our processes and systems.

To build and maintain a child-safe organisation, Life Without Barriers has a comprehensive and integrated policy framework, which applies to all employees, volunteers and carers. This policy framework provides guidance in relation to the following areas to ensure the protection and care of children and young people we work with:

- Governance
- Management systems
- Human resources
- Knowledge management
- Risk assessment and management
- Legal and regulatory compliance
- Safety and quality integration
- Assessment and planning
- Focusing on positive outcomes
- Ensuring cultural safety and appropriateness
- Confirming consumer rights

Objectives

All staff share the responsibility and have an obligation to meet our objectives to:

1. Promote practices where the protection, safety and wellbeing of children and young people is paramount at all times.
2. Promote a culture where children and young people are treated with dignity, equality and respect.
3. Listen to and respond appropriately to the views and concerns of children and young people.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY STATEMENT

4. Take all reasonable steps to ensure the physical, emotional and psychological safety and protection of children and young people.
5. Ensure children and young people understand their rights, including access to age appropriate material explaining what they can expect when receiving services from us.
6. Ensure children and young people know of, have easy access to, and confidence in various communication channels, and people who will listen to and act on their concerns.
7. Ensure we respond quickly, fairly and transparently to any disclosure, issue or complaint made by a child, young person or their parent/guardian or other advocate.
8. Identify, assess and manage risks to ensure continuous, safe, responsive and efficient services.
9. Ensure the privacy and confidentiality of information.
10. Act in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and comply with all relevant state laws and regulations.
11. Provide services and programs in an effective, safe and responsive way to ensure positive outcomes for children and communities.
12. Provide services and programs in a culturally safe and appropriate manner.
13. Provide services and programs in a way that strengthens the rights of children, empowers them and is ethical.

Related Policy Guidelines or Documents

- Child Protection Policy Guideline
- Our Values

Audit / Evaluation

Regular review and update of child protection policy documents as part of a continuous quality improvement approach and in response to any new legislative and/or regulatory requirements. Statement must align to Life Without Barriers values.