

Child Safety - Statement of Commitment

Hope SA is deeply committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. We consider safety and wellbeing as the core principles guiding our decision-making, support, and care for children and young people.

At Hope SA, we maintain a zero-tolerance policy towards child abuse, harm, and neglect. Any concerns or allegations of reportable conduct involving a person associated with Hope SA are taken extremely seriously, and we conduct thorough investigations to ensure the safety of all individuals involved.

Creating a child-safe environment is our top priority. We strive to provide a space where children and young people feel safe, protected, and empowered to have their voices heard in decisions that impact their lives. We pay particular attention to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and children with disabilities.

We firmly believe that everyone within our organization, including staff, board members, management, volunteers, contractors, and families, shares the responsibility to understand and actively contribute to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

As part of our commitment, Hope SA will:

- Adopt a proactive and participatory approach to child safety, focusing on prevention.
- Promote a safe environment, both offline and online, for children and young people accessing our services.
- Encourage and value the active participation of children, ensuring their voices are heard in decision-making processes.
- Respect and honor cultural diversity and child-rearing practices while prioritizing the safety and wellbeing of children.
- Recognize the invaluable input of families and carers, maintaining open and regular communication with them.
- Foster a culture of openness, where individuals feel safe to disclose any concerns or risks of harm to children.
- Maintain a rigorous recruitment and selection process that adheres to all relevant worker checks and safeguards.
- Provide comprehensive training and development opportunities for our employees, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to identify and report suspected risks of harm. They will also be trained on implementing child protection policies and procedures.
- Empower children to know whom to approach if they feel worried or unsafe, ensuring they are comfortable and encouraged to raise any issues they may encounter.
- Comply with all mandatory reporting requirements for children or young people who are suspected to be at significant risk of harm.
- Share information appropriately and lawfully with relevant organizations when the safety and wellbeing of children are at stake, prioritizing their protection above all else.