National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

Keeping Our Kids Safe Stakeholder Kit

September 2023

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INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The National Office for Child Safety worked in partnership with SNAICC — National Voice for our Children (SNAICC) to create resources that support organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and communities to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (National Principles). The Keeping Our Kids Safe resources apply a cultural lens to the National Principles to help organisations think about how to make themselves more child safe, in a culturally safe way.

The National Principles are 10 principles, agreed by all Australian governments, that give organisations across Australia a consistent approach to promoting a culture of child safety and wellbeing. The National Principles are flexible and relevant for organisations of all sizes and sectors that engage with children and young people.

When the National Principles were being developed, stakeholders said that more tailored information was needed for organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and communities. The Keeping Our Kids Safe resources take the National Principles and deliver them in a way that is culturally relevant and promotes cultural safety.

Cultural safety is the positive recognition and celebration of cultures. It is more than just the absence of racism or discrimination and more than 'cultural awareness' and 'cultural sensitivity'. It empowers people and enables them to contribute and feel safe to be themselves. In a child safe, culturally safe organisation, children, young people, family, carers and kin, and community members feel that their culture and identity are respected.

SNAICC, with the help of Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency created two resources:

- an animated video, *Keeping Our Kids Safe: Understanding Cultural Safety in Child Safe Organisations*, that gives viewers an introduction to the National Principles through a cultural lens

- a guide, *Keeping Our Kids Safe: Cultural Safety and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*, that gives practical advice on how to implement the National Principles in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities.
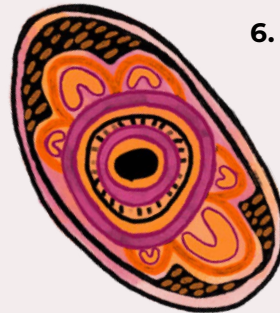
Additionally, a set of worksheets/posters have been developed to support organisations in engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and better understand their needs. These worksheets are designed to be flexible to use, working as both individual and/or group activities or as display posters.

THE 10 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.
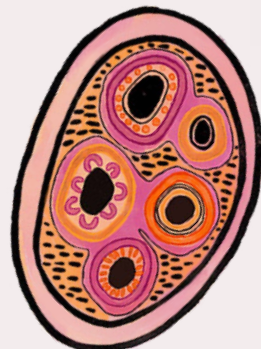
8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

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.
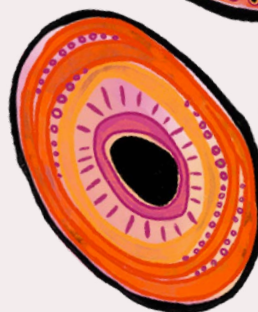
Read more about the National Principles **here**.

RESOURCES

Guide - Keeping Our Kids Safe: Cultural Safety and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

This guidance resource, Keeping Our Kids Safe: Cultural Safety and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, supports organisations engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and communities to implement the National Principles in a culturally safe way by providing practical advice for all levels of an organisation. It highlights cultural considerations that will help organisations to make sure their spaces are culturally safe, and their programs and activities are free from racism and discrimination.
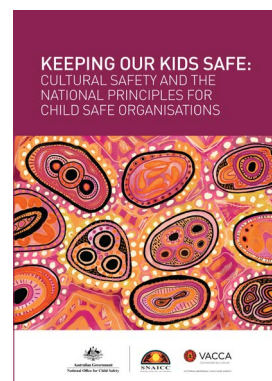
Video - Understanding Cultural Safety in Child Safe Organisations

This nine-minute video resource talks through each of the 10 National Principles and what they might look like through an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural lens. The video can be used for training and informing staff and volunteers at all levels of an organisation.
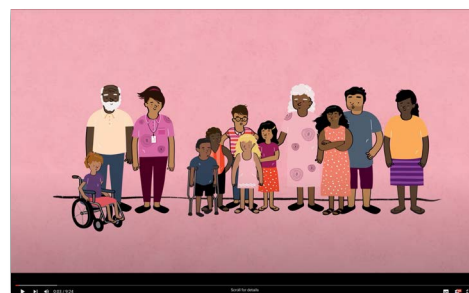
Worksheet/posters - Keeping Our Kids Safe worksheets and posters

These worksheets and posters help organisations engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in a culturally safe way. You can do the activities on the A4 worksheets with children and young people you work with. Afterwards, you can print your group's answers on the A3 posters and display these around different spaces in your organisation. They are available as A4 worksheets and A3 posters and we encourage you to repeat the activities regularly.
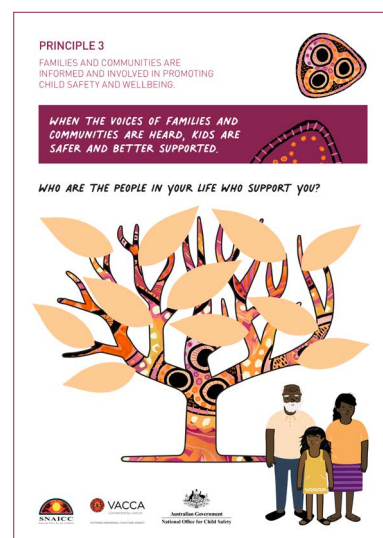
SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Here are some suggested social media posts for Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn to show your support for the National Principles and resources. Feel free to edit the posts for your organisation's social media channels but please ensure the artist credits are present when using the social media tiles.

Artwork credit: "Muurpa" by Jasmine Miikika Craciun (Barkindji, Malyangapa).

You can also tag the National Office for Child Safety:

LinkedIn: @childsafetygovau   Facebook: @childsafety.gov.au   Instagram: @childsafety.gov.au


The Keeping Our Kids Safe resources continue to support organisations who work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in a culturally relevant and safe way. Learn more about the resources: https://www.childsafety.gov.au/resources/keeping-our-kids-safe

Artwork credit: "Muurpa" by Jasmine Miikika Craciun (Barkindji, Malyangapa)

#NationalPrinciples #ChildSafety #childsafeorganisations #culturalsafety #Indigenousartist

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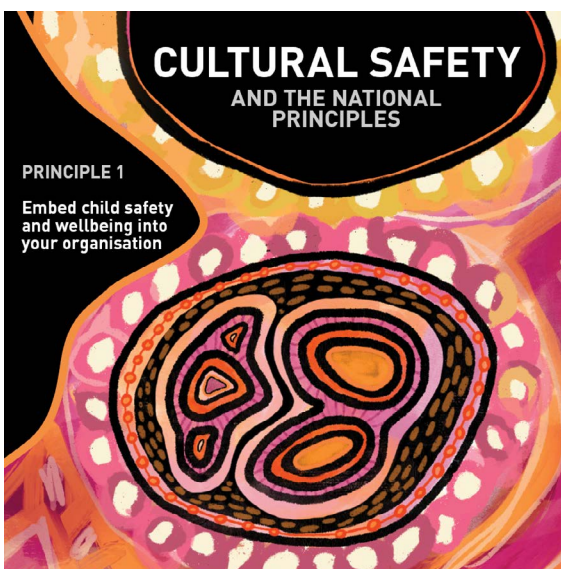
Learn how the 10 National Principles support organisations like yours to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in a culturally safe way. Learn more about the principles and how to implement them in a culturally safe way: https://www.childsafety.gov.au/resources/keeping-our-kids-safe

Artwork credit: "Muurpa" by Jasmine Miikika Craciun (Barkindji, Malyangapa)

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A child safe organisation:

- creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing are the centre of the organisation's inspiration, values and actions
- places emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children
- creates policies and procedures for a child's voice to be heard
- creates conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and increases the likelihood of identifying harm
- responds to any concerns, disclosures, complaints, allegations or suspicions

Learn about cultural safety and how to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in a culturally appropriate way: https://www.childsafety. gov.au/resources/keeping-our-kids-safe

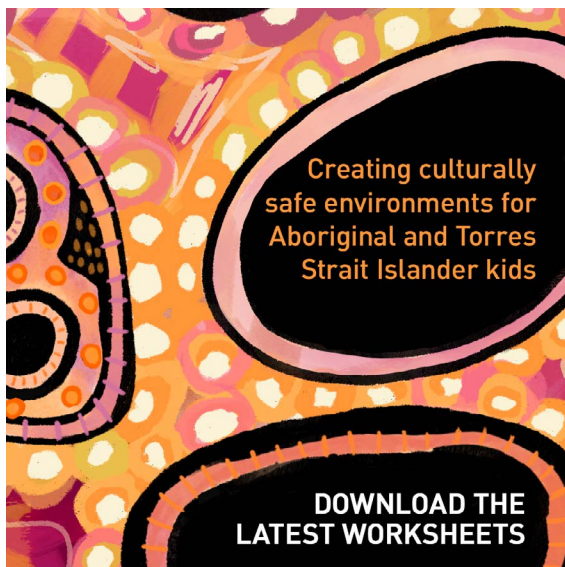Artwork Credit: "Muurpa" by Jasmine Miikika Craciun (Barkindji, Malyangapa)

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Does your organisation engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and communities? There are new resources available to help you make your organisation a culturally safe space. Learn more about the resources: https://www. childsafety.gov.au/resources/keeping-our-kids-safe

Artwork Credit: "Muurpa" by Jasmine Miikika Craciun (Barkindji, Malyangapa)

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Creating culturally safe environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids

DOWNLOAD THE LATEST WORKSHEETS

The National Principles are 10 principles, agreed by all Australian governments, that give organisations a consistent approach to promoting a culture of child safety and wellbeing. Download the latest worksheets to help staff more effectively implement the National Principles with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids: https://www.childsafety.gov.au/resources/keeping-our-kids-safe

Artwork Credit: "Muurpa" by Jasmine Miikika Craciun (Barkindji, Malyangapa)

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is cultural safety?

- Cultural safety is the positive recognition and celebration of cultures. It is more than just the absence of racism or discrimination and more than 'cultural awareness' and 'cultural sensitivity'. It empowers people and enables them to contribute and feel safe to be themselves.

Shouldn't parents be responsible for their child's safety?

- Children regularly interact with organisations, with and without their parents. In 2013, the Australian Government established a Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
- The Commission's final recommendations emphasised that Australians should feel confident that organisations working with children provide safe environments in which children's rights, needs and interests are met. The National Principles provide a national approach to embedding a child safe culture across all sectors of Australian society in which children are involved such as education, sports and religion.

The guide and video are for organisations that work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. Why aren't they for all organisations?

- The National Office helped develop a suite of National Principles for Child Safe Organisations resources that set out how all organisations can keep all children and young people in Australia safe. The guide and video builds on the National Principles through a cultural lens to support organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.

The worksheets/posters are designed for organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. Will more worksheets/posters be developed for children and young people more broadly?

- The National Office prioritises the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. The National Office is continually increasing its engagement with other sectors and working with them to support their child safety journeys.

A young person has raised a concern that an adult has made them feel uncomfortable and unsafe and I'm not sure what to do? / I'm concerned about a child's safety, but I don't know what to do and who to speak to?

- Resources are also available to support adults to help children and young people in their lives to speak up.

- The Speak up and make a complaint resources were developed to help empower children and young people, their parents/support person to give feedback to organisations about their activities and services. The resources will help children and young people to report problems or concerns, and to make complaints if they're not happy.

- The Complaint Handling Guide: Upholding the rights of children and young people gives organisations advice about how to put in place a complaint-handling system that puts child safety first and promotes the rights of children and young people to have a voice in decisions that affect them.

- If you, or someone you know, has been impacted by or is concerned about a child's safety, there are other services and resources available to help. You can report child sexual abuse no matter how long ago it occurred. Visit childsafety.gov.au for support services available and how to make a report.

- In an emergency, or if you are concerned about a child's immediate safety, call 000.

My organisation works regularly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. Are there risk resources available to ensure my organisation is able to manage child safety risks appropriately?

- The National Office has developed a Child Safety Risk Management Guide; a Child Safety Risk Identification Checklist; and a Child Safety Monitoring, Reviewing and Reporting Quick Reference Guide to support organisations to understand how to appropriately manage child safety risks.

- The Child Safety Risk Identification Checklist provides specific guidance on *National Principle 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice*, to ensure organisations working with children and young people from diverse backgrounds (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people) are appropriately and adequately supported, and that children and young people are safe from harm.

CONTACT US

If you need any more information, you can contact us directly at
NationalOfficeForChildSafety@ag.gov.au

The National Office for Child Safety leads the development and implementation of several national priorities recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, including the *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030.*

Find more information on child safety, support and making a report on **our website**.