

## WCS commitment to Child Safety

*October 2022*

Woden Community Service (WCS) is committed to upholding the national principles for child safe organisations introduced in response to the findings of the Royal Commission on Child Abuse. Consistent with the national principles, a child is defined as every human being below eighteen years of age.

All areas of WCS will come together to ensure our practices, policies and procedures place the best interests of children and young people first, and that they are able to respond appropriately.

- WCS supports, respects and encourages all children and young people and is committed to their wellbeing and participation.
- We are committed to the cultural learning and safety of all children and young people, including those who are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- We provide a safe and inclusive environment for children and young people of all genders, sexualities, abilities, economic status, family structures, ethnicities, religious beliefs, languages, cultures, national origins and lived experiences.
- We engage the whole organisation to meet these commitments, including board members, employees and volunteers.
- We have in place the required policies, procedures and processes to keep children and young people safe within our services. This includes strong recruitment processes to ensure we have the right staff. We also provide ongoing training to ensure staff are up-to-date on safety measures and understand what is expected of them.
- We seek feedback from the children, young people and families who use our services. We draw on this feedback in our regular review of policies, procedures and processes, to ensure we continue to improve and strengthen our approach.
- We seek to identify risks early, providing a safe space for children and young people to voice their concerns and be heard. We follow up on any concerns, in order to mitigate and reduce any risks for safety.
- We treat all allegations and concerns about the safety and wellbeing of children and young people very seriously.
- We follow our duty of care and obligations to contact external authorities as appropriate when we are aware of a risk to a child or young person's safety.