

Our Statement of Commitment to Youth Safety & Wellbeing

Youth Focus recognises the strength and potential of all young people, but equally our responsibility to ensure their safety and wellbeing. This is at the centre of what we do.

We are committed to embedding the **National Principles for Child Safe Organisations** as well as recognising the core principles of the **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child**, ensuring that the physical and emotional safety of children and young people always remain a priority.

We follow our **Guiding Principles**, ensuring young people are treated as individuals with rights, and are committed to ensuring every individual that interacts with us feels safe and is able to bring their whole selves, being welcomed with equity, dignity and respect.

We recognise that cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people requires dedication and consultation. We will continue to ensure the voices of all children and young people are heard, including those who identify as LGBTQIA+, disabled or neurodiverse and/or those with diverse Cultural Identities and languages.

We will:

- Recognise that the safety and wellbeing of children and young people can never be taken for granted and is everyone's responsibility.
- Act upon any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of young people and will treat all disclosures and complaints seriously.
- Listen to and empower all young people, ensuring that we walk alongside them in decisions that impact their lives.
- Encourage all feedback which helps ensure that our services and actions are safe and of a high quality.
- Support our staff and volunteers (regardless of their role) to live by this commitment every day through leadership, professional development, policy, and procedure.
- Expect that all staff and volunteers abide by our Code of Conduct and will have zero tolerance for any conduct which is harmful to young people.