

Child Safeguarding Statement of Commitment - Child Safety, Rights and Wellbeing



KU Children's Services is a child safe organisation committed to protecting children from harm and abuse.

The safety, rights and best interests of children are paramount and inform all aspects of our decision-making. Our longstanding commitment to child safety and wellbeing is demonstrated by our zero tolerance for child abuse, a strong culture of reporting concerns, and respect for children's voices and participation. We embed the Child Safe Standards in everyday practice, comply with child safe legislation, and foster a culture in which children are safe, valued and heard.

Safe • Valued • Heard

- 1 Uphold standards of excellence in child safety and wellbeing.** Our Board, Executive and leaders champion a strong child safeguarding culture, embedding child-safe values and practices across KU to ensure children are safe, respected and protected.
- 2 Empower children to know their rights and have a voice.** We recognise children as active participants whose views, experiences, and perspectives are valued and create meaningful opportunities for them to influence decisions that affect them.
- 3 We work in partnership with families and communities.** We promote children's safety, wellbeing, participation and rights through collaborative relationships with families and communities.
- 4 Provide culturally secure environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children.** We respect and support children's connection to family, community, culture and Country.
- 5 Promote equity and inclusion for every child.** We proactively promote the safety, inclusion, participation and belonging of all children, particularly children with a disability, children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, children who have experienced trauma, or any child who may face increased vulnerability or risk of exclusion.
- 6 Maintain rigorous child safe recruitment.** We ensure employees, volunteers, students and agency-employed casual educators are suitable to work with children and are aware of their child safe responsibilities, including reporting obligations.
- 7 Staff have the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe.** Staff receive regular training in KU's child safeguarding practices, enabling them to identify and manage child safe risks and respond appropriately to child protection concerns.
- 8 Foster a strong culture of reporting and speaking up.** We take complaints seriously and support children, staff and families to raise concerns and report risks without fear of reprisal. Children's safety and wellbeing is the focus of our process for responding to child safe complaints.
- 9 Create safe physical and online environments.** We actively identify, manage and reduce risks to children in the physical environment and promote the safe and responsible use of digital technologies.
- 10 Commit to continuous improvement.** We regularly review and strengthen our systems and practices to improve outcomes for children.
- 11 Establish clear child safe policies and procedures.** Our policies, procedures and Code of Conduct set clear expectations for everyone working with children.