

BENDIGO YOUTH CHOIR

Child Safe Standards

Statement of Commitment

The Bendigo Youth Choir is committed to the prevention of harm and abuse to children and young people and will work in accordance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards.

We recognise our legal and moral responsibilities in keeping children and young people safe from harm and promoting their best interests. We commit to ensuring that a culture of child safety is embedded into our practices and processes and that all Councillors, employees, volunteers, contractors, agency staff, consultants, and students over the age of 18 understand that the safety of children and young people is everybody's business. Every child and young person accessing our organisation and its services has the right to feel and be safe.

We have zero tolerance for child abuse and will treat all complaints and allegations seriously and immediately. We take a risk management approach in line with the Child Protection Policy to minimise or eliminate the potential for child abuse or harm to occur.

We embrace diversity and inclusion and in doing so we recognise that all children and young people, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, family background and social background, have equal rights to protection from abuse.

We commit to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and children and young people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to the provision of a safe environment for children and young people with a disability, as well as other vulnerable groups of children and young people.

We do not tolerate racism or discrimination and expect that staff, volunteers, contractors, consultants, and students over the age of 18 will act on all incidents of racism.

We create environments where all children and young people have a voice and are listened to, their views respected, and they contribute to how we plan for, design, and develop our services and activities. We are committed to the physical, emotional, psychosocial and cultural wellbeing of all children and young people.

All staff, volunteers, contractors, consultants, and students over the age of 18 have a responsibility to understand and activate their role in preventing, detecting, responding to, and reporting any suspicions of child abuse to the relevant authorities and in maintaining a child safe culture.