

'12 Standards for a Child Safe Organisation'

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| 1 An Open & Aware Culture | 7 Screening of Representatives |
| 2 Understanding Child Abuse | 8 Support & Supervision |
| 3 Managing Risk to Minimise Abuse | 9 Empowering Children & Young People |
| 4 Child Protection Policies & Procedures | 10 Training & Education |
| 5 Clear Boundaries | 11 Complaints & Disclosures |
| 6 Recruitment & Selection | 12 Legal Responsibilities |

Child Wise established the '12 Standards for a Child Safe Organisation' to create a framework for building open, transparent, and accountable organisations. If fully adopted, the Standards will act to combat those barriers to establishing a child safe organisation – fear, denial, a lack of resources, complacency, and an entrenched culture.

Child Wise believes that these Standards should be adopted by the Federal Government as part of a National Child Abuse Prevention Strategy. Just as all organisations are expected to meet Occupational Health and Safety standards through OHS regulations (i.e. WorkCover), organisations with a duty of care for children should be expected to meet standards for their protection and care.

The Standards work together - by understanding child abuse, organisations will be better able to identify any risks to children; by accounting for known risks through clear boundaries and codes of conduct they will enable better support and supervision of staff; better training in offender grooming behaviours will lead to more effective recruitment processes, and so on.

The Standards aim to prevent, minimise, and end child abuse in an organisational and institutional context. They employ situational crime prevention tools to create environments that are 'child safe' – this does not seek to have a direct effect on the behaviour of offenders, but aims to eliminate or reduce their inappropriate behaviour within organisations. It is about creating safer environments rather than safer individuals; the goal of a child safe environment is to create a culture where abuse is unable to take place.

Recognising that there is no fool-proof system for the complete prevention of all forms of abuse, the Standards also incorporate elements of public health interventions to prevent the abuse of children, minimise the risk of abuse by heightening the likelihood that abuse will be detected, and to reduce the long term impacts of abuse on children.