



Child Safety Code of Conduct

For children and young people

Purpose

This code has been developed to provide children aged 17 years and under with information about their rights, and the behaviours that are expected of them, and the adults responsible for them, when attending services and programs provided by the City of Stonnington.

Every child has the right to be safe and protected from abuse

No adult should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, at school, at the services and programs you attend, or anywhere else in the community.



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Children and young people have the right to:

- » be safe and happy
- » be protected from abuse or harm
- » be listened to
- » be believed and have their concerns taken seriously
- » enjoy their community in protective environments
- » be respected and treated fairly
- » be the boss of their own bodies
- » ask for and receive help
- » be supported to get professional help if needed
- » participate fully and on an equal basis in the services, programs and activities we offer
- » have their cultural identity valued by the people and environments that surround them
- » privacy, and to be told when and how their personal information will be shared
- » confidentiality, and to be informed about its limits, and
- » have a say on issues that relate to them.



What should you do if you feel unsafe, or are worried that one of your friends is unsafe?

Tell an adult you trust – this might be a parent, family member, a teacher, welfare officer, doctor or psychologist. It can also be someone you trust from one of our services or programs you attend, like a nurse, recreation officer, youth worker, librarian, customer service officer or childcare worker.

All adults at our services can help you and must take your concerns seriously.



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Remember:

- » Telling someone you trust will not get you in trouble.
- » It is not okay for adults to make you feel scared, unsafe or uncomfortable by the way they touch, talk to and treat you, or by the things they ask you to do.
- » Even if the person who is making you feel unsafe has asked you to keep it a secret, or has told you that something bad will happen if you tell someone, you should still talk to an adult you trust so they can protect you and help you to feel safe.
- » A person doesn't have to physically hurt or touch you to be doing the wrong thing, they may also use their words, social media, or act in ways that are not safe (like not taking proper care of you).
- » If you are worried that a friend is unsafe, you should talk to an adult you trust so that they can make sure that your friend is safe and can be protected (even if your friend told you not to tell anyone).
- » Even if you are not sure, if something doesn't feel right, talk to an adult just in case.
- » There are people who care about you and you do not need to deal with this on your own.



What will happen when you tell an adult at our services that you feel unsafe, or that you think your friend is unsafe?

- » They will listen to your concerns and take them seriously.
- » They must help you and will make sure you do not have to deal with this alone.
- » They will need to tell another adult at the service (like their boss) about your concerns so that they can work out the best way to keep you, or the person you are worried about, safe.
- » Sometimes, if we have concerns about your safety and think you need protection, we may also have to tell the police or other workers who specialise in protecting children.
- » They will **not** share what you have told them with the person making you feel unsafe.
- » They will check in with you and keep you updated on what they have done.

There are many people who can help you. Here are some other suggestions:

Call **eHeadspace**
or go online for support

1800 650 850
eheadspace.org.au

Call **KidsHelp Line**
or go online for support

1800 55 1800
kidshelpline.com.au

Visit your local **police**
station or call the
police to make a report

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