

Statement of Commitment to the Safety and Wellbeing of Children

Life Choice acknowledges its responsibility to uphold and promote the safety and wellbeing of children and to respect and listen to the opinions of the children in our care.

Life Choice recognises the importance of developing and implementing systems which protect children from risk of harm, and fostering a culture of safeguarding children.

As such, Life Choice commits to the following principles:

1. **Respect:** We will treat everyone equally, regardless of who they are or their age. We will ensure that everyone feels safe, welcome and respected.
2. **Inform:** We will ensure that children are informed of their physical, emotional and online rights and what actions to take if they feel unsafe.
3. **Family and community:** Where it is safe to do so, we will involve families and communities in our approach to child safety and wellbeing.
4. **Help:** We will help children to work towards their goals in life.
5. **Safety:** We will ensure that children feel safe and comfortable in our care. All persons in our organisation will be supported to safely disclose risks of harm to children. We will take seriously, and act immediately in relation to, any reports of child abuse.
6. **Staff and volunteers:** We will ensure that all workers whom we engage have been appropriately screened and trained to work positively with children including training in mandatory reporting requirements for all new staff.
7. **Include children in decisions:** We will seek input and feedback from children and empower them to participate in decisions affecting their lives or care.
8. **Give voice:** We will help children to voice their concerns and complaints about the organisation, and we will take their input seriously.
9. **Safe environment:** We will ensure that our physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing.
10. **Policies and procedures:** We will document, regularly review and continuously improve our policies and procedures to promote and uphold child safety and wellbeing.
11. **Cultural safety and inclusion:** We will work to promote a culturally safe and inclusive environment for all including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families accessing Life Choice services.

