

## COUNCIL POLICY

---

### Child Safe Awareness Policy

**Policy No:** 3.8

**Policy Subject:** Child Safe Awareness

**Objectives:**

To establish Council's commitment to child safety.

**Background:**

This Child Safe Awareness policy has been developed in response to recommendation 6.12 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse which, states as follows;

With support from governments at the national, state and territory levels, local governments should designate child safety officer positions from existing staff profiles to carry out the following functions:

1. developing child safe messages in local government venues, grounds and facilities
2. assisting local institutions to access online child safe resources
3. providing child safety information and support to local institutions on a needs basis
4. supporting local institutions to work collaboratively with key services to ensure child safe approaches are culturally safe, disability aware and appropriate for children from diverse backgrounds.

**Policy:**

- The rights of children and young people are upheld.
- Children and young people are respected, listened to, and informed about their rights.
- Children and young people have the fundamental right to be safe and cared for.
- Children and young people have the right to speak up, be heard and taken seriously without the threat of negative consequences.
- The safety and best interests of children and young people are a primary consideration when making decisions that concern them.
- Access to trusted and reliable information, including the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, helps support organisations to understand what they must do to help reduce the risk of harm and abuse.
- Communities are informed and involved in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people including protection from harm.
- Collaboration with the community and our partners promotes the safety, participation and empowerment of all children and young people.

**Guidelines:**

Shire of Katanning will ensure the following functions of this policy are resourced and assigned to the relevant officers for implementation.

- Developing a process to deliver child safe messages (for example at Shire of Katanning venues, grounds and facilities or events).

- Connecting and supporting local community groups, organisations, and stakeholders to child safe resources (including culturally safe and inclusive resources).

**Responsibilities:**

Our services to children are provided in a manner that is free from harm and abuse.

Although Shire of Katanning is not legally responsible for providing oversight of compliance with child safe practices, it will take any reasonable steps to engage with persons who utilise Shire of Katanning facilities to operate in alignment with the Child Safe Awareness policy.

**Resolution No:** OC88/24

**Resolution Date:** 28 August 2024

**Amended:**

**Source:** Recreation & Culture

**Review Frequency:**

This policy will be reviewed every two years or earlier subject to amended legislation related to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

**Review**

**Responsibility:** Manager Katanning Leisure Centre