



Public Statement of CELC Commitment to Child Safeguarding and Wellbeing

At Catholic Early Learning and Care (CELC), we are unwavering in our dedication to promoting the safety, wellbeing, and protection of every child in our care. We believe that all children have the fundamental right to learn and grow in environments that are safe, nurturing, inclusive, and free from harm.

Our services actively uphold and embed the Universal Principle and Child Safe Standards, ensuring that every child and family feels welcomed, respected, valued, and supported within our community.

Our Commitment

- The safety and wellbeing of children are our highest priority across all services. We are committed to protecting children from all forms of abuse, including exploitation, racism, discrimination, and exposure to unsafe environments or practices.
- The voices of children in our care are integral to our decision-making processes. We are committed to actively listening to children, respecting their views, and ensuring they have meaningful participation in all decisions that impact them.
- We are committed to safeguarding information and documentation regarding children, particularly information shared and stored within digital platforms.
- Creating a culturally safe environment and fostering respect for diversity are core principles of CELC. We are committed to ensuring that:
 - Children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including those from refugee and migrant communities, are welcomed, included, and supported.
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children feel respected, connected, and empowered to maintain and celebrate their cultural identity.
- CELC is committed to ensuring that all children – including those with disabilities, children unable to live at home, children of diverse genders and identities, economic status, family structure and children from varied

experiences and backgrounds – are safe, respected, and fully included in all environments and interactions within CELC services.

- CELC is committed to ensuring that all employees understand and adhere to our ChildSafe Code of Conduct and comply with screening requirements as mandated by government legislation. We believe that ongoing training, supervision, and professional development are essential to equipping employees with a comprehensive understanding of their safeguarding responsibilities and obligations.
- CELC maintains a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of abuse, racism, discrimination, and exclusion. We take all allegations, complaints, and concerns seriously and respond promptly, fairly, and in accordance with legal requirements, ensuring that processes are culturally respectful and informed by trauma-sensitive practices.

- CELC is committed to continuous improvement. We regularly review and evaluate our policies, procedures, practices, and service environments in collaboration with children, families, and communities.
- Risk management and the creation of safe environments is the foundation to CELC's commitment to child safety. We work proactively to identify and mitigate risks in both physical and online settings, ensuring that cultural, social, emotional, and diverse wellbeing needs are embedded within our safeguarding approach.
- CELC demonstrates strong governance and accountability by embedding child safeguarding, culturally safe practices, and respect for diversity within all governance structures, policies, and procedures. Our leadership ensures continuous improvement in alignment with the Child Safe Standards and Universal Principle.

Our Responsibility

This statement applies to all Catholic Early Learning and Care employees, volunteers, contractors, students and board members. It is a visible and public expression of our organisation's ongoing commitment to child safeguarding, cultural safety, equity, and diversity.



CATHOLIC EARLY LEARNING & CARE

