

Berry Street Yooralla's Commitment to Child Safety

Berry Street has zero tolerance for child abuse or neglect. Through strong leadership, clear accountability and robust governance, we are committed to culturally safe, equitable, inclusive and trauma-informed environments.

This commitment is embedded through the Berry Street Yooralla Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy and a comprehensive suite of policies, internal organisational procedures and practices, supported by training, monitoring and continuous improvement processes. Together, these ensure we prevent harm, respond effectively to concerns, and uphold the rights and wellbeing of children and young people.

We promote environments where children, families, carers and our workforce feel safe, supported and empowered to raise concerns, ask questions and report issues relating to child safety, and where those concerns are taken seriously and responded to appropriately.

Guiding Principles:

Our actions, systems and culture to ensure child safety is guided by the following principles:

- a) **Zero Tolerance for Abuse:** We have zero tolerance for child abuse in any form and zero tolerance for any Berry Street Yooralla person who fails to report suspected harm, risk, or misconduct.
- b) **Children Are Safe, Respected and Heard:** We create and maintain environments where every child is safe, respected, listened to, empowered, and where their views and experiences are actively sought, valued and acted upon.
- c) **Proactive Risk Management:** We identify, assess, and reduce risks to children's safety and wellbeing across all settings—physical, digital, and through our people, programs and systems.
- d) **Strong, Trauma-informed Responses to Concerns:** We respond immediately, compassionately and thoroughly to all concerns, disclosures, allegations and complaints involving the safety and wellbeing of children.
- e) **Compliance with Child Safety Standards:** We meet our obligations under the Victorian Child Safe Standards, the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.
- f) **Clear Policies, Safe Systems and Strong Governance:** We maintain robust policies, procedures, governance structures and reporting systems that protect children, support staff and volunteers, and ensure accountability.
- g) **Cultural Safety for Aboriginal Children:** We are committed to the cultural safety, participation, and agency of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and to working in ways that uphold self-determination.
- h) **Inclusion, Equity and Accessibility:** We uphold the rights of all children, inclusive of children of any ability or disability, culture, gender expression, sexuality, family background or identity and ensure equitable access to safe, inclusive experiences.

- i) **Safety and Empowerment of Children with Disability:** We ensure children with disability are empowered to participate, can safely express their views, and are supported through environments and communication approaches that meet their needs.
- j) **Safe Online and Digital Environments:** We maintain safe, age appropriate and monitored online and digital environments, reducing cyber risk and preventing online grooming, exploitation or harm.
- k) **Safe Recruitment and Workforce Practices:** We implement rigorous recruitment, screening, supervision and training to ensure our workforce is child safe, skilled, and culturally competent.
- l) **Continuous Improvement and External Accountability:** We regularly review, audit and improve our child safety practices, and invite external scrutiny to strengthen our systems and culture.
- m) **Shared Responsibility and Leadership Commitment:** Child safety is a shared responsibility, led by a visible, active and accountable leadership commitment across all levels of Berry Street Yooralla.

Supporting documents:

This commitment is supported by Berry Street Yooralla's Child Safety Code of Conduct and Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy, which set out expected behaviours, responsibilities and organisational requirements for keeping children and young people safe.

- [Child Safety Code of Conduct](#)
- [Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy](#)

Version Control

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Process Owner:	Director Quality Risk & Safeguarding
Manager Responsible:	Executive Director, Quality Practice and Safeguarding
Version notes:	
Version 1.0	Policy created: Post Merge Berry Street Yooralla, incorporating both entities and replacing the Berry Street Child Safety and Wellbeing policy and the Yooralla Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy. The Berry Street Child Safety Statement of Commitment and the Yooralla Child Safety Statement of Commitment.

