All organisations in Victoria that provide services or facilities specifically for children and young people under 18 years of age are required by law to comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards. More information on the Standards, including who they apply to, is available at [https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards.](https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards.%20)

Under the Child Safe Standards, Council is required to identify and mitigate risks of child abuse and harm within our operations and policies. Council therefore requires organisations who wish to run events on Council land to complete a risk assessment that includes child safety as part of Council’s event application process.

When completing the child safety section of the risk assessment, please focus on risks to children and young people aged 0 to 18 years, rather than risks to the organisation/s involved in the event.

Consider the different ways that children or young people could be harmed or abused (including grooming, sexual abuse, physical violence, serious neglect and bullying), and that abuse can be perpetrated by anyone (including adults, other children or young people, paid staff, volunteers, family, friends or strangers).

These **Child Safe Event Guidelines** are designed to support organisations to complete the child safety section of this risk assessment, by providing:

1. Examples of typical **child safety risks** for events
   * Ask yourself - ‘what could go wrong with this event that could result in harm or abuse to children or young people?’
   * Please note that some of the key child safety risks from this list are already included in Council’s risk assessment template.
2. Examples of good practice **child safety risk controls** for events
   * For each child safety risk identified, consider what risk controls (i.e. actions to manage the risk) you could implement to either eliminate or reduce that risk for your event.
   * When completing the risk assessment, include any existing risk controls that you already have in place, as well as any additional controls that you will implement. This will result in you having a complete list of all the steps you are taking to manage child safety risks in relation to your event.

Once the risk assessment is completed, share it with others involved in delivering the event so that everyone understands what child safety risks could occur in relation to this event and how they will be managed.

## **Further information**

For more information please contact Council’s **Child Safety and Inclusion Advisor** on 9294 5742 or by email at [childsafety@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:childsafety@maroondah.vic.gov.au).

These **Child Safe Event Guidelines** are broken into four different child safety risk areas, described below:

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| **Situational Risk** | **Situational risk arises from the opportunities for abuse created by an environment (physical or online), which can provide potential perpetrators with opportunities to be alone with a child or young person, or to form relationships that involve physical contact or emotional closeness, leading to grooming or unlawful sexual behaviour.**  **Situational risks can relate to an event’s activities, its physical environment, and its online / digital environment.** |
| **Vulnerability Risk** | **Vulnerability risk arises from the circumstances or characteristics of the children and young people involved in the event (e.g. by attending, participating, performing, planning, volunteering or working the event) which might make them more vulnerable to harm or abuse.**  **These factors can increase a child or young person’s exposure to the risk of being abused, the impact of abuse if it occurs, or their reluctance to report abuse.**  **Children and young people who are more likely to be exposed to circumstances that increase their vulnerability include those:**   * from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander backgrounds * with a disability * from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds * newly arrived in Australia * who identify as LGBTIQA+, are non-binary or gender diverse, or are questioning their sexuality or gender * with a history of trauma, abuse or neglect * unable to live at home including those who are homeless or living in foster, residential or kinship care * with a history of drug or alcohol misuse or dependence * with poor mental or physical health. |
| **Personnel Risk** | **Personnel risk refers to the risk that there will be perpetrators of child abuse within an organisation, and focuses on the staffing profile of the organisation and related factors. Organisations must operate on the assumption that everybody who works (whether paid or voluntary) with children or young people can pose some level of risk to them.**  **For events, ‘personnel’ can include:**   * Event staff / volunteers - e.g. paid employees, volunteers, students / trainees, official representatives, etc * Event partners / contractors - e.g. community organisations and groups, businesses, stallholders, performers, security services, first aid officers, etc |
| **Organisational Risk** | **Organisational risk takes into consideration characteristics of the organisation (rather than its activities) that may make abuse more likely to occur and less likely to be identified and responded to effectively.**  **Organisational risk includes the organisation’s structures, culture, and policies and procedures.** |

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| **Examples of typical child safety risks for events**  ***Please note that these are examples only, they may not all be relevant for your event.*** |
| **SITUATIONAL RISKS** |
| A child or young person aged 0 to 18 years is harmed or abused by an adult or by another child or young person at, or in relation to, the event. |
| Abuse or harm to a child or young person at, or in relation to, the event is not reported or is not reported correctly. |
| A child or youth-focused event or activities may attract people who are looking for opportunities to harm or abuse children or young people. |
| A person is behaving suspiciously around children or young people at the event in a way that creates safety concerns (e.g. making suggestive comments, taking photos or videos, loitering without a reason, etc). |
| Individuals are taking or distributing photos or videos of children or young people at the event. |
| Lost or found child - a child is separated from their parents/carers at the event. |
| Spaces or facilities at the event are not set up to allow for optimal safety or supervision of children (e.g. shared toilets, changing areas, back of stage spaces, poorly lit areas). |
| Attendees engage in inappropriate language or behaviour with or around children or young people at the event. |
| Attendees bring, use or are under the influence of drugs, alcohol or other harmful substances at the event. |
| A child or young person’s personal information (e.g. name, contact details, health information, photos, videos, etc) is accessed or distributed by someone without authorisation and/or for inappropriate reasons. |
| **VULNERABILITY RISKS** |
| Children or young people who may be more vulnerable to child abuse or harm (see list above) are involved with the event (e.g. attending, performing, volunteering or working), and appropriate steps to protect them are not taken. |
| The event’s child safety strategies, processes or communication methods are not accessible, inclusive or safe for different groups of children or young people. |
| **PERSONNEL RISKS** |
| Event staff/volunteers are not adequately screened for appropriateness and suitability to work with or around children and young people. |
| Event staff/volunteers are not equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe. |
| Event partners/contractors use personnel for the event that are not appropriate or suitable to work with or around children and young people. |
| **ORGANISATIONAL RISKS** |
| Organisations involved in the event (whether as event organisers or event partners/contractors) are not compliant with relevant child safety legislation or requirements. |
| Child safety isn’t prioritised in the organisations involved in this event |
| Organisations involved in this event have organisational structures that can increase the risk of child abuse and harm, such as:   * having a strong hierarchical structure * encouraging deference to authority or unquestioning trust of leaders * having a close-knit community, where people have known each other for years or are family members * services or facilities for children are not seen as a key part of the organisation’s business * containing people whose attitudes towards children are that they should be seen and not heard |
| Policies and procedures to help keep children and young people safe from harm and abuse in relation to the event are not documented, complete, compliant with child safety legislation and requirements, and/or up to date. |
| Child safety policies and procedures for the event are not easy to understand or access. |

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| **Examples of good practice child safety risk controls for events**  ***Please note that these are examples only, you do not need to implement them all for your event.*** | |
| **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES** | |
|  | Event organisers have a **Child Safety Policy** (however named) that outlines their organisation’s expectations, practices and approach regarding child safety.  ***Please note:***  *Organisations that are required by law to comply with the Child Safe Standards must have a Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy (however named) that explains the organisation’s approach to meeting the Standards. A guide to creating a Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy (including a template and an example policy) is available at* [*https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Creating-a-Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy.docx*](https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Creating-a-Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy.docx) |
|  | All other organisations involved with the event that are required by law to comply with the Child Safe Standards will have a **Child Safety Policy** (however named) and provide a copy to the event organisers prior to the event. |
|  | Event organisers have a public **Commitment to Child Safety**, which can act as a deterrent to those looking for opportunities to abuse or harm children or young people.  ***Please note:*** *An example Commitment to Child Safety can be found at* [*https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Creating-a-Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy.docx*](https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Creating-a-Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy.docx) |
|  | Event organisers have a **Child Safe Code of Conduct** for the event, which outlines behavioural expectations of event staff/volunteers and event partners/contractors when working with and around children and young people.  ***Please note:***  *An example child safety Code of Conduct can be found at* [*https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Steps-to-develop-or-update-your-Code-of-Conduct.docx*](https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Steps-to-develop-or-update-your-Code-of-Conduct.docx) |
|  | Before the event, event organisers will provide copies of the **Child Safe Code of Conduct** to event staff/volunteers and event partners/contractors. |
|  | Event staff/volunteers and event partners/contractors will sign the **Child Safe Code of Conduct** to acknowledge they have read it, understand it, and will follow it at all times in relation to the event. |
|  | All breaches of the event’s **Child Safe Code of Conduct** will be reported to event organisers, and reported to the appropriate authorities if necessary, as per the event’s **Child Safety Reporting Procedure.** |
|  | Event organisers have a **Child Safety Reporting Procedure** for the event that outlines how event staff/volunteers and event partners/contractors are to respond to any child safety incidents, concerns or complaints, and who these must be reported to (including contact details). Event organisers will provide copies of the event’s **Child Safety Reporting Procedure** to event staff/volunteers and event partners/contractors  ***Please note:*** *An example Child Safety Reporting Procedure can be found on page 116 of ‘A guide for creating a Child Safe Organisation’ at* [*https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/A-guide-for-creating-a-Child-Safe-Organisation-27.04.23.pdf*](https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/A-guide-for-creating-a-Child-Safe-Organisation-27.04.23.pdf) |
|  | Event organisers will actively monitor and review all child safety incidents, concerns and complaints to ensure the event’s **Child Safety Reporting Procedure** is followed correctly by event staff/volunteers and event partners/contractors, and that the appropriate authorities are notified as required. |
|  | Event organisers have a **Lost Children’s Procedure** for the event that outlines how event staff/volunteers and event partners/contractors are to manage any incidents of lost or found children, including who must be notified and what documentation is required. Event organisers will provide copies to all event staff/volunteers and event partners/contractors |
|  | Event organisers will actively monitor and review all incidents of lost or found children to ensure the event’s **Lost Children’s Procedure** is followed correctly by event staff/volunteers and event partners/contractors. |
|  | Event organisers will provide their key child safety information, policies and procedures in accessible formats as needed, e.g. as translated text, in picture form, or as videos with subtitles and/or closed captions. |
|  | The event organiser’s key child safety policies and procedures are available to the public online, e.g. on the organisation or event’s website or social media. |
|  | Event organisers seek and incorporate feedback on their child safety policies and procedures to ensure they are easy to understand and follow. |

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| **RECRUITMENT AND SCREENING** | |
|  | Before the event, event organisers will ensure that all **relevant** event staff/volunteers hold a current and valid Working With Children Check (WWCC).  **‘Relevant’** event staff/volunteers for this event are defined as (select one):  All event staff/volunteers involved with the event  Only those that will be working with or around children or young people  Other (please specify):  ***Please note:*** *Under the* [*Worker Screening Act 2020*](https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/as-made/acts/worker-screening-act-2020) *if you’re doing child-related work and are not otherwise exempt under the Act, you must have a WWCC (even if you already have a police check).*  *WWCCs can be applied for here -* [*https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children*](https://service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children)*.* |
|  | In the week prior to the event, event organisers will check the status of all WWCCs to ensure they are all current and valid at the time of the event.  ***Please note:*** *WWCC status can be checked here -* [*https://www.service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children-check-status-checker/home*](https://www.service.vic.gov.au/services/working-with-children-check-status-checker/home) |
|  | Before the event, event organisers will ensure that all **relevant** event staff/volunteers obtain a police check.  **‘Relevant’** event staff/volunteers for this event are defined as (select one):  All event staff/volunteers involved with the event  Only those that will be working with or around children or young people  Other (please specify):  ***Please note:***  *National police checks can be applied for here -* [*https://www.police.vic.gov.au/national-police-records-checks*](https://www.police.vic.gov.au/national-police-records-checks) |
|  | Before the event, event organisers will conduct reference checks for all **relevant** event staff/volunteers to assess their suitability and appropriateness to work with or around children and young people.  **‘Relevant’** event staff/volunteers for this event are defined as (select one):  All event staff/volunteers involved with the event  Only those who will be working with or around children or young people  Other (please specify): |
|  | Event organisers to maintain an up-to-date register of all checks undertaken for event staff/volunteers, including full names, WWCC numbers and expiry dates (digital scans are best), and results of all checks undertaken. |
|  | Event organisers have an agreed position on what to do if a prospective event staff/volunteer fails any of the event’s required screening processes, and/or if any concerns are identified regarding the individual’s appropriateness or suitability to work with or around children and young people. Event organisers will follow this agreed position consistently. |
|  | Before the event, event organisers will communicate to event partners/contractors that all **relevant** personnel they engage for this event are required to hold a current and valid WWCC, and that they must maintain an up-to-date register of these WWCCs.  **‘Relevant’** personnel engaged by event partners/contractors for this event are defined as (select one):  All personnel engaged by event partners/contractors for this event  Only those that will be working with or around children or young people  Other (please specify): |
|  | Before the event, event organisers will communicate to event partners/contractors that that they must maintain an up-to-date register of all checks undertaken for their relevant personnel engaged for this event. |
| **TRAINING** | |
|  | Event staff/volunteers are provided with information and/or training on how to (select all that apply):  Recognise signs and indicators of child abuse and harm  Respond to child safety incidents, concerns and complaints  Report child safety incidents, concerns or complaints as per the event’s **Child Safety Reporting Procedure** |
|  | Event staff/volunteers are provided with information and/or training to help make the event inclusive, accessible and safe for children, young people and families of all abilities.  ***Please note:*** *A tip sheet on ‘Safety of children with a disability’ can be found at* [*https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-safety-children-disability.pdf*](https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-safety-children-disability.pdf) |
|  | Event staff/volunteers are provided with information and/or training to help make the event inclusive, accessible, culturally sensitive and safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families.  ***Please note:*** *A tip sheet on ‘Cultural safety for Aboriginal children’ can be found at* [*https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-cultural-safety-aboriginal-children.pdf*](https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-cultural-safety-aboriginal-children.pdf) |
|  | Event staff/volunteers are provided with information and/or training to help make the event inclusive, accessible and safe for culturally and linguistically diverse children, young people and families.  ***Please note:*** *A tip sheet on ‘Safety of children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds’ can be found at* [*https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-safety-children-cult-ling-diverse.pdf*](https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-safety-children-cult-ling-diverse.pdf) |
|  | Event staff/volunteers are provided with information and/or training to help make the event inclusive, accessible and safe for LGBITQA+ children, young people and families. |
|  | Event staff/volunteers are provided with information and/or training to help make the event inclusive and accessible for children, young people and families experiencing financial or other forms of disadvantage. |
|  | Event staff/volunteers are provided with opportunities to identify any further child safety training needs. |
|  | Event organisers will maintain a training register to record (select all that apply):  The completion of training by event staff/volunteers  The provision of copies of the event’s child safety policies and procedures  Signed acknowledgment of the event’s **Child Safe Code of Conduct** |
| **ACCESSIBILITY** | |
|  | Event information and marketing clearly and accurately describes the accessibility measures that are in place for the event, and who to contact for further information. |
|  | Accessible parking spaces and toilets are available at the event. |
|  | Auslan interpreting services are promoted and available at the event. |
|  | Video content for, or of, the event uses Closed Captions. |
|  | Event marketing material and official proceedings include an Acknowledgement of Country that acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Custodians of the land now known as the City of Maroondah. |
|  | Event organisers work in partnership with the Wurundjeri People, Traditional Custodians of the land now known as the City of Maroondah, to incorporate event components that acknowledge and celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, such as a Welcome to Country or Smoking Ceremony. |
|  | Event information and marketing material is translated into other languages. |
|  | Interpreting services are promoted and available. |
|  | Unisex toilets are available on site at the event. |
|  | Basic necessities such as drinking water, sunscreen and first aid are available free at the event. |
|  | If event tickets or admission fees are required, options are available to help make the event more financially accessible to those experiencing financial disadvantage (e.g. admission is an optional donation rather than a set fee; concession tickets are available; free tickets or waivers are offered where appropriate, etc). |
|  | Event includes activities that are free or low cost. |
| **MONITORING / SECURITY** | |
|  | Police will be notified in advance that the event will be held. |
|  | Event staff/volunteers will be physically stationed throughout the event space and actively scanning the area for any safety issues. |
|  | Event staff/volunteers will carry mobile phones or radios on them at all times during the event, so that they can quickly communicate about any child safety incidents, issues or concerns, including making reports to relevant authorities as required. |
|  | Event organisers will identify any high-risk spaces or facilities at the event (i.e. areas that do not provide optimal safety or supervision of children, such as toilets, change rooms, poorly lit areas, crowded areas, etc) and develop strategies to reduce child safety risk as much as possible. |
|  | Event staff/volunteers will regularly monitor all high-risk spaces and facilities at the event (including checking these areas before and after the event to ensure no one is present when they shouldn’t be), and report any child safety incidents, concerns or complaints per the event’s **Child Safety Reporting Procedure.** |
|  | Event staff/volunteers will respond to any inappropriate behaviour as applicable, and will alert the event organisers and/or police if necessary. |
|  | Event staff/volunteers will advise anyone with/or using drugs, alcohol or other harmful substances that it is a drug, alcohol and smoking free event and this behaviour must cease. Event staff/volunteers will alert the event organisers and/or police if necessary. |
| **COMMUNICATIONS** | |
|  | Event information and marketing material includes clear communications to event attendees that children attending the event are to be under adult supervision at all times and cannot be left unattended. |
|  | Event information, marketing material and signage displayed at the event includes a public **Commitment to Child Safety** by the event organisers, which can act as a deterrent to those looking for opportunities to abuse or harm children or young people.  ***Please note:*** *An example Commitment to Child Safety can be found at* [*https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Creating-a-Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy.docx*](https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Creating-a-Child-Safety-and-Wellbeing-Policy.docx) |
|  | Signage is displayed at the event that includes information for the public on how to report any child safety incidents, concerns or complaints in relation to the event (including lost and found children). |
|  | The event is marketed as a drug, alcohol and smoking free event. |
| **PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY** | |
|  | Event organisers will communicate to all media, event staff/volunteers, event partners/contractors that people who want to take photos or videos at the event must register with the event organisers to be an **Approved Event Photographer.** |
|  | Event organisers will maintain an up to date register of all **Approved Event Photographers.** |
|  | Event organisers will monitor for anyone taking photos or videos without permission (i.e. not an Approved Event Photographer) and/or without consent. |
|  | **Approved Event Photographers** for this event will (select all that apply):  Wear a lanyard or other easily visible form of identification at the event that clearly identifies them as an Approved Event Photographer.  Read, sign and follow the event’s **Child Safe Code of Conduct** at all times in relation to the event.  Not have unsupervised access to children or young people at any time.  Not take or distribute images of children or young people that are sexually exploitative or that are open to obvious misinterpretation or misuse.  Only take or distribute images of children or young people that portray them in a dignified and respectful manner.  Not take or distribute photos or videos that identify children or young people without the consent of the child or young person (advising that consent can be withdrawn).  Not take or distribute photos or videos that identify children or young people without the consent of their parent or adult guardian (advising that consent can be withdrawn).  Only use or distribute images of children or young people at the event for the purposes originally intended. |
|  | Event organisers will monitor the Approved Event Photographers to ensure they are following all event requirements, and report any child safety incidents, concerns or complaints (including any inappropriate images or misuse of images) as per the event’s **Child Safety Reporting Procedure**. |