

Carers SA journey to become a Nationally Accredited Child Safe Organisation



In 2020 **Carers SA** engaged **Child Wise**, to become a **Child Safe Nationally Accredited Organisation** using the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The Principles aim to provide a nationally consistent approach to creating organisational culture that foster child safety and wellbeing.



Child Wise reviewed Carers SA policies and procedures, visited sites where children and young people spent time, and talked to children, young people, parents, carers, staff, volunteers and leaders about child safety.

In February 2021, 68 recommendations for improvement were made by Child Wise and accepted by Carers SA. The final audit to becoming an accredited organisation will occur in March 2022.


Carers SA
Australia

carerssa.com.au



Our aim and the aim of all child safe organisations is to put the best interests of children and young people first and this is being led by Principle 1 - to embed Child Safety in institutional leadership, governance and culture!

As of October 2021 - we had 31 recommendations complete, 37 in progress with all to be completed by February 2022.

Some of Our Achievements

- Carers SA has developed and lodged a new Child and Young Person Safety Policy with the Department of Human Service in June 2021.
- The purpose of this policy is to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and is tailored to reflect Carers SA service and activities.
- To support a culture of safety and to ensure every young person and child feels safe when interacting with Carers SA we have developed:
 - > Child Safe Officer roles to support and promote awareness of child safety. These are advisory roles that operate across the organisation to provide support and guidance to staff/ volunteers in relation to child safeguarding policy and practice.
 - > The Young Carer Collective to increase the engagement and participation of children and young people with Carers SA
 - > A Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People. This statement has been included in key policy documents like the Carers SA Code of Conduct.
 - > The Child and Young Person Reporting Procedure and an organisational wide Carers SA Professional Behaviour Guide.

- > The [Your Voice online platform](#) to connect in a meaningful way and have children, young people, families and carers have a voice and be heard.
- > Systems that support safety by undertaking thorough risk assessments across all service areas.
- Carers SA Board and leadership continues to support and embed the National Principles into meetings and training.
- Carers SA has embedded child safety practices into HR recruitment and reinforced organisational commitment to child safe standards through:
 - > Advertising
 - > DHS Working with Children Checks and National Police Checks
 - > Child Safe training – “Through Their Eyes” every 3 years
 - > Child safety included in Induction and Supervision.

Carers SA has made all Child Safe Policies and Procedure Public facing

- [Carers SA's Commitment to Child and Young Person Safety](#)
- [Carers SA Code of Conduct](#)
- [Child and Young Person Safety Policy and Reporting Procedure](#)

Children, young people, families and communities can feel confident that Carers SA is providing safe environments where children's rights, needs and interests are met. Carers SA has zero tolerance of harm or risk of harm against children and young people and will continue to support the engagement and participation of children and young people.