



Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

About NCNS

Nepean Community Neighbourhood Services (NCNS) is an innovative grass-roots organisation that works with and for the people of our community to provide services and community development programs for those who need it most, across the Greater Western Sydney, Nepean, Blue Mountains and Lithgow regions.

Our work is grounded in the principles of social justice – equity, access, participation and rights - and we focus our resources on those who are the most disadvantaged and least powerful groups in our community, providing quality programs that are grounded in respect and that build community capacity, strength and inclusion.

Our commitment to children and young people

NCNS is committed to promoting and protecting the best interests of children involved in its programs. We are committed to providing an environment for children and young people where they feel safe, and are listened to and believed.

All children, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, or family or social background, have equal rights to protection from abuse.

NCNS has zero tolerance for child abuse. Everyone working at NCNS is responsible for the care and protection of the children within our care and reporting information about suspected child abuse.

We support and respect all children and young people. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability and children and young people who are gender diverse.

We believe all children are unique and have the right to be protected.

NCNS embraces the ten NSW Child Safe Standards and National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and acknowledges the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child.

Our commitment to parents, carers, families and communities

NCNS is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.

We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.

Our organisation has robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers. We invest in our staff and volunteers to ensure they are supported to have the skills, knowledge and confidence to be child safe.

We are committed to communicating with adults involved in our organisation, services and programs around creating, maintaining and improving a safe environment for children and young people.

We are committed to sharing information with adults about keeping children and young people safe, including:

- where they can find further information and advice
- how to make a report if they suspect or know a child is at risk, or if they observe a breach of our code of conduct

We seek to incorporate the views and opinions of children and young people when developing a safe place for them.

We welcome comments, compliments and complaints from children, their families and the community to guide how we work to protect children.

We have specific policies, procedures and training in place that support our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.

Our commitment to being a child safe organisation

NCNS will:

- use child safe recruitment processes that include a Working with Children Check (WWCC) and other screening checks as appropriate for all staff
- ensure NCNS staff and volunteers are exemplary in their conduct with children and young people
- ensure that all NCNS stakeholders know how and when to report any concerns, complaints or allegations of concerning conduct, including abuse, neglect or grooming
- ensure that all NCNS participants are provided with appropriate support if they are exposed to, or report, abuse, neglect or grooming.

Scope

This Statement relates to all Board members, staff, volunteers, students and contractors of NCNS.

Version 1 at 7 December 2022; ratified by the Board April 2023