



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

ShelterBox Australia is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children. We have zero tolerance for child abuse. ShelterBox Australia is committed to complying with Australian Commonwealth and State child safety laws, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Everyone working at ShelterBox Australia is responsible for the care and protection of children and reporting information about real, perceived or suspected child abuse.

APPLICATION

This policy applies to all staff, contractors and volunteers and to the broad range of situations where interaction with children and young people may occur in the delivery of ShelterBox Australia's services.



PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- ensure that all staff, contractors and volunteers engaged by ShelterBox Australia are aware of the organisations commitment to creating and maintaining a child safe environment.
- facilitate the prevention of child abuse within ShelterBox Australia
- establish the framework for an organisational culture of child safety
- outline the responsibilities that various parties have for identifying possible occasions for child abuse, for establishing controls and procedures for preventing abuse, and for detecting abuse when it occurs.
- provide guidance to staff, volunteers and contractors as to action that should be taken where they suspect any abuse within or outside of the organisation
- provide a clear statement to staff, volunteers and contractors forbidding any such abuse.
- provide assurance that all suspected abuse will be reported and fully investigated.

OUR COMMITMENT

ShelterBox Australia is committed to promoting and protecting the best interests of children involved in its programs, and to providing a child-safe and child-friendly environment for all children and young people who engage with ShelterBox Australia. ShelterBox Australia is committed to complying with Australian child safety standards and legislation.



A commitment to communication of the Child Safeguarding policy and procedures to all governing body members, donors, staff, volunteers, visitors to projects and partners.

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. ShelterBox Australia has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Everyone working at ShelterBox Australia is responsible for the care and protection of the children within our care and reporting information about suspected child abuse.

Child protection is a shared responsibility between the ShelterBox Australia and all staff, contractors, volunteers, associates, and members of the ShelterBox Australia community.

ShelterBox Australia will consider the opinions of children and use their opinions to develop child protection policies.

ShelterBox Australia supports and respects all children, staff contractors and volunteers.

ShelterBox Australia is committed to the cultural safety of children, and pays particular attention to the safety and cultural safety of the following groups of children, in recognition of their increased vulnerability, and diverse and unique identities and experiences:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people
- children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- children living with a disability
- children who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans



- children who are intersex, non-binary or gender diverse
- children in and out of home care and the youth justice system.

Any person who believes a child is at immediate risk of abuse must contact the police (telephone 000).

SHELTERBOX AUSTRALIA'S APPROACH TO CHILD SAFETY

In continuing to implement and promote a child-safe system of work, ShelterBox Australia will:

- assess and manage the risk of abuse to children who interact with ShelterBox Australia, including through recruitment practices and online.
- screening processes in recruitment for those that may be in contact with children, including behavioral-based interview questions, referee checks, and criminal record checks conducted as part of State based working with children requirements, before engagement
- develop an environment in which children feel listened to and valued, and in which their concerns are acted upon, including encouraging and allowing children to participate in decisions important to them.
- consult with staff and other appropriate parties, including families and children.
- take a proactive approach to child safety, including fostering a culture of openness that encourages all staff to report any concerns of child safety and supports them in this process.



- report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authority, whether or not the law requires reporting; and to any donors that require reporting under any funding agreements.
- ensure children know the options available to them if they are concerned or feeling unsafe, and foster an environment where children are safe to raise such concerns.
- recruit staff who are suitable to work with children and provide high quality training, supervision and professional development to staff.
- have policies, procedures and supports in place to reflect these commitments, and review these regularly.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

This policy will be monitored and reviewed at bi-annually or as needed.

The CEO is ultimately accountable to the Board for managing and maintaining this policy and is responsible for the implementation of this policy. The Board is responsible for approving and adopting this policy.

Where compliance issues are identified, they will be addressed promptly. The CEO is responsible for taking any recommended amendments to this policy to the SBA Board for its approval.