How safe are youth-serving organisations? The Children and Young People's Safety Project

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Background

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

409 recommendations

10 National Principles

We need to improve our policies and procedures

ICPS Children's Safety and Safeguarding Capabilities Surveys

How can we measure and evaluate the impact of our improvements?

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We have worked with schools and school systems, child welfare and out-of-home care organisations, religious groups and sports organisations and clubs

2018-2020 Participants
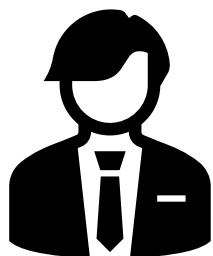
Safeguarding Capabilities Survey

633 staff & volunteers

22% M   77% F   1% Gender Diverse

61% Practitioners, 30% middle and senior management, 9% admin

Sectors: 43% = Youth Development
(Top Four) 27% = Education
                12% = Sport
                10% = Community services

Children's Safety Survey

1,851 young people

37% M   62% F 1% GD

10-18 y/o; 13.95(2.05)

Sectors: 81% = Education
(Top Four) 5% = OOHC
                 4% = After school care
                 4% = Community services

2018-2020 Results (selection of key results)

Safeguarding Capabilities Survey

- Attitudes towards safeguarding are high. Conversely, confidence to act is comparatively low

- Staff are aware of Codes of Conduct and their mandatory reporting requirements

- Staff want more training and need support in building the sexual safety of YP and providing support to abused YP

Children's Safety Survey

- 96% of YP feel safe all or most of the time

- YP would tell their Mum, a friend or their Dad if they felt unsafe

- 2/3 of YP are confident adults can help

- Around 50% said there are interpersonal barriers to seeking help

YP = young people

Conclusions

Action steps for leaders

7. **Discuss children's safety often, with everyone**. This includes listening to children and young people themselves, parents, carers, staff (frontline and administration), and volunteers.

8. **Provide ongoing professional learning** for staff and volunteers about safeguarding children and young people and particularly on how to support a child or young person if they have concerns or when they feel unsafe.

9. **Talk about safety processes** you use that go beyond pre-employment suitability screening (i.e., Working with Children Checks) that ensure children and young people's safety.

10. **Share safeguarding policies and procedures** regularly with children and young people using child-friendly language that is suitable for their age.

For more information about the Children and Young People's Safety project and how it could help your organisation measure safeguarding go to
https://safeguardingchildren.acu.edu.au/measuring-safety