

VCC: Child Safe Standards

Definition of Terms

Aboriginal	The term "Aboriginal" is inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
Abuse	Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical Abuse - Emotional Abuse - Sexual Abuse - Neglect - Family Violence - Grooming
Accidental Harm	Includes: Poor physical environment leading to injury; Poor supervision; High-risk activity
Accountability	Willingness (or necessity) to be called to account for actions
Allegation	A complaint, incident, or notification of any matter brought to the faith community by an aggrieved person that may be rightly dealt with
Alleged offender	The person who is subject of a complaint, incident or notification regarding an alleged act of abuse
CALD	<u>C</u> ulturally and <u>L</u> inguistically <u>D</u> iverse. This refers to people identifying with diverse backgrounds including language, nationality, traditions, ethnicity, religion and social structures
Child	A person who is under the age of 18 years (eg: The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012, Victoria)
Child Safe Environment	Discharges duty of care by taking steps to keep all those in our care safe, including e.g. spiritual, physical, sexual, emotional abuse (including bullying) or neglect

Child Safe Leader	Is a person who has been through a recruitment process, understands responsibilities, is supervised and is an accountable team player
Child Safe Program	A program or event where all risks have been assessed and events thought through and planned
Code of Conduct	An agreed commitment to uphold policies, procedures and practices within the faith community
Cultural diversity	This refers to people who identify with particular groups based on their birthplace, ethnicity, language, values, beliefs or views.
Cultural or Spiritual Abuse	Includes: Lack of cultural respect or racial or cultural vilification or discrimination; Lack of support to enable a child to be aware of and express their cultural identity; Use of positional power and control and using prayer/scripture as a means of manipulation
Cultural safety	This is an environment that is safe for people: where there is no assault, challenge or denial of their identity, of who they are or what they need. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience, of learning, living and working together with dignity and truly listening.
Disclosure	This occurs when someone informs the leadership (or a trusted adult) within the faith community that they have been subject to abuse or knows of abuse. A disclosure may or may not be an allegation or a notifiable circumstance, but it is the responsibility of the person in authority to investigate and take any appropriate action.
Duty of Care	The moral and legal responsibility that the faith community has to ensure the safety and well-being of those who participate in its programs and activities
Grooming	This is a form of sexual misconduct. Physical or psychological actions which involve manipulative cultivation of relationships with children or young. Also referred to as "coercion".

Mandatory reporting	Some people who work with children and young people are required by law to follow the guidelines for reporting to Statutory Authorities any allegations of abuse or following the person's identification as being at risk of significant harm
Neglect	Includes: Lack of supervision; Not providing adequate nourishment; Not providing adequate clothing or shelter; Not meeting the specific physical or cognitive needs of children
Online abuse	Includes: Abusive texts and emails; hurtful messages, images or videos; intimidated others online; Grooming - Sending a child offensive, confronting or obscene content (or asking for inappropriate photos); singling a child out for a 'special' relation
Physical abuse	Physical abuse occurs when a child suffers or is likely to suffer significant harm from a non-accidental injury or injuries inflicted by another person. Physical violence can be inflicted in many ways, including beating, shaking, burning or use of weapons (such as, belts). It includes: Physical punishment; Pushing, shoving; Punching, slapping, biting, kicking
Privacy	Referring to privacy and confidentiality legislation, people's right to privacy is to be protected, and information to be kept confidential.
Psychological /emotional Abuse	Includes: Bullying; Threatening language; Shaming; Intentional ignoring and isolating; Spiritual abuse
Risk	A situation involving exposure to danger
Risk Assessment	A systematic process of evaluating the possible risks, harm or injury that may be linked to an activity or task
Risk Management	The risk assessment along with the documentation of procedures to avoid or minimise the impact of the risk
Safety	Physical, emotional, spiritual safety; being protected from danger, risk, or injury

<p>Serious emotional or psychological abuse</p>	<p>Serious emotional or psychological abuse occurs when harm is inflicted on a child through repeated rejection, isolation, or by threats or violence. Includes: derogatory name-calling and put-downs; persistent and deliberate coldness from a person, to the extent where the behaviour of the child is disturbed or their emotional development is at serious risk of being impaired.</p> <p>It can also result from conduct that exploits a child without necessarily being criminal, such as encouraging a child to engage in inappropriate or risky behaviours.</p>
<p>Serious neglect</p>	<p>Serious neglect is the continued failure to provide a child with the basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, shelter, hygiene, medical attention or adequate supervision, to the extent that the child's health, safety and/or development is, or is likely to be, jeopardised. It can also occur if an adult fails to adequately ensure the safety of a child where the child is exposed to extremely dangerous or life threatening situations.</p>
<p>Sexual abuse</p>	<p>This occurs when a person involves a child in sexual activity, or deliberately puts the child in the presence of sexual behaviours that are exploitative or inappropriate to his/her age and development. It can involve a range of sexual activity. It can include: behaviour; exposure to or exploitation through pornography or prostitution; Assault and exploitation; Grooming; Inappropriate touching; Inappropriate conversations of a sexual nature; Crossing professional boundaries</p>
<p>Touch</p>	<p>Any form of physical contact</p>
<p>Vulnerable Person</p>	<p>A person who may be considered to be susceptible to abuse or exploitation based on factors such as their health status (physical or mental), age, grief, previous experience of abuse, social isolation or financial hardship. In this sense vulnerability can be temporary or permanent.</p>
<p>WWCC</p>	<p>Working with Children Check</p>
<p>Young person/people</p>	<p>These terms relate to people aged 13-17</p>