## Video nine – where to from here?

### Slide one

Welcome to the Victorian Child Safe Standards Faith Communities Online Training Portal.

### Slide two

In this training video, which is the final video in our training series regarding the Victorian Child Safe Standards for Faith Communities, we will be focussing on where to from here?

### Slide three

The Child Safe Standards ensure that there is a minimum Standard for safety in all organisations providing services to children.

The Standards aim to change the culture of organisations so that protecting children from abuse is embedded in everyday thinking and practice.

Protecting children from abuse will be the foundation of daily life.

### Slide four

There are 7 Child Safe Standards in the Child Safe Standards:

Standard 1 - Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety including through effective leadership arrangements.

Standard 2 - a “Child Safe Policy” or “Statement of Commitment” to children safety.

Standard 3 - a Code of Conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.

Standard 4 - screening supervision training and other human resource practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel.

Standard 5 - processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.

Standard 6 - strategies to identify and reduce or remove risk of child abuse.

Standard 7 - strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

### Slide five

The Child Safe Standards are flexible and principle based so that organisations can tailor their approach to the type of organisation they run and their level of responsibility for children and activities involving children and young people.

### Slide six

Creating a Child Safe environment is everyone’s responsibility!

Many organisations already have child safety policies and practices in place.

Some organisations may meet the Standards. For these it is a process of continuous review and improvement.

For other organisations this information has been new and your journey has just begun.

### Slide seven

There 3 principles that form part of the response to each of the 7 Standards.

These are:

1. The cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

2. The cultural safety of children from culturally and or linguistically diverse background.

3. The safety of children with a disability.

### Slide eight

So where to next?

Organise and perform a Child Safe review of your organisation using one of the checklists available for download from the Child Safe Standards website.

Look at what your organisation already has in place; identify strengths and areas for improvement.

Understand the level of risk associated with your organisation and the services and activities it provides to children and young people.

### Slide nine

Identify what further information, advice and support you need.

Identify where to access support. There are many supports listed on the Child Safe Standards website along with many practical samples for you to download and adapt to suit your individual Faith Community.

Make and implement a plan to address any gaps.

Work to clear timeframes to ensure that you are helping your Faith Community become a Child Safe organisation.

**Slide ten**

Remember, nothing in the Victorian Child Safe Standards change the responsibility to report child abuse to police.

For the purposes of the Child Safe Standards, “Children” are anyone younger than 18 years old.

This is not a one off exercise. You need to continually improve your response to creating a Child Safe environment.

### Slide eleven

Call the police on 000 if you have immediate concerns for a child’s safety or if you believe child abuse may have occurred.

And investigations of any matter by police must always take priority over internal investigations.

### Slide twelve

Remember further resources, tips and summaries are available to you through the Victorian Child Safe Standards Faith Communities toolkit and through the website [www.childsafestandsards.org.au](http://www.childsafestandsards.org.au).

There are also more resources available through the Commission for Children and Young People. You can see these on their website [www.ccyp.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au).

These include:

* A guide for creating a Child Safe organisation
* Child Safe tips sheets for organisations
* Child safety tip sheets for parents

An information line has been set up and can be accessed on 03 8601 5281 or email childsafestandards@ccyp.vic.gov.au.

### Slide thirteen

Thank you for watching.

We hope that this training program has been of assistance to you and your Faith Community in meeting the Victorian Child Safe Standards that come into place on the 1st of January, 2017.