

CHILD SAFETY STANDARDS & CYRMS IN

SURF LIFE SAVING QUEENSLAND



Creating Safe, Inclusive, and Supportive Environments for Children and Young People



Queensland

BACKGROUND

Child safety is everyone's responsibility — at every level of Surf Life Saving Queensland.

Surf Life Saving Clubs across Queensland have a shared responsibility to ensure that children and young people are safe, supported, and empowered within our community. This includes making child safety a priority in every program, patrol, and decision made at Club, Branch, and State level.

To support this, all areas of Surf Life Saving Queensland must align with two key frameworks:

NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR CHILD SAFE ORGANISATIONS

10 Child Safety Standards

These national principles were developed by the Australian Human Rights Commission in response to the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*. Endorsed by all Australian governments, they set the benchmark for how organisations can keep children safe.

The ten standards are:

- Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- Children are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
- People working with children are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing in practice.
- Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse are child focused.
- Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through ongoing education and training.
- Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing and minimise the opportunity for children to be harmed.
- Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
- Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children.

All child-related organisations, including Surf Life Saving, are expected to embed these principles in their operations.

QUEENSLAND CHILD AND YOUTH RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (CYRMS)

(Required under the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld))

The CYRMS was implemented for all Blue Card regulated organisations in Queensland. It provides a practical framework for identifying and managing child safety risks in programs, patrols, events, and Club operations.

The CYRMS Frameworks includes:

- Statement of Commitment
- Code of Conduct
- Procedures for recruiting, selecting, training and managing staff & volunteers
- Policies and procedures for handling disclosures of harm including reporting
- Plan for managing complaints with the Club Card System
- Risk Management plans for high-risk activities and special events
- Strategies for communication and support

Each Club should ensure its CYRMS is up to date, reviewed annually, and applied in practice across all programs and personnel.



WHY BOTH FRAMEWORKS MATTER

Together, the 10 Child Safe Standards and CYRMS provide a full-circle approach to child safety:

- The Principles/ standards guide the vision, values, and culture we aim to build.
- The CYRMS outlines the actions and systems we must put in place under Queensland law.

By implementing both frameworks, you ensure that all children involved in Surf Life Saving—whether through Nippers, sport, lifesaving, or leadership—are protected, respected, and given a voice.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILD SAFETY WITHIN OUR ORGANISATION

Child safety is part of everything we do in Surf Life Saving Queensland. As a movement built on community, trust, and service, we must create environments where children and young people feel safe, supported, and empowered to thrive.

Embedding child safety into our culture is not just about meeting legal obligations — it's about living our values and strengthening the integrity of our organisation. When we prioritise child safety, we:

- Build trust with our members, families, and the broader community
Create inclusive environments where every child feels seen, heard, and protected
- Strengthen our reputation as a safe, respected volunteer-led organisation
Reduce the risk of harm and ensure appropriate responses when concerns arise

Foster leadership, teamwork, and confidence in our youngest members

Whether a child is involved in Nippers, patrols, surf sports, leadership pathways, or social activities — they deserve to be safe. Child safety must be part of our decision-making, our behaviours, and our daily operations across all Clubs, Branches, and the State.

By placing child safety at the core of our organisation, we honour the trust families place in us — and protect the future of Surf Life Saving.



RESOURCES & SUPPORT

- SLSQ Child Safety Website (Coming soon)
- Queensland Family and Child Commission - National Principles
- Blue Card Services - Child and youth risk management strategies

Need Help or Templates?

For support, training tools, or templates, contact: compliance@lifesaving.com.au





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