



Australian
Business Coalition
for Safeguarding
Children



Australian
Childhood
Foundation

Child Safeguarding Business Principles

It's On Us, not them

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Governance and Leadership

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About the Principles

The Child Safeguarding Business Principles are developed by On Us: Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children, a coalition set up to secure business community commitment to safeguarding children and young people.

The Child Safeguarding Business Principles are designed for Australian businesses that may or may not come into contact with children and young people but are not legally obligated to follow child safe standards/principles set for organisations that primarily work with children. The Child Safeguarding Business Principles guide businesses in recognising and managing their potential or actual risks on children's safety and wellbeing.



Definition of child safeguarding:

Safeguarding children refers to the process of protecting children and young people from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation and to promote their well-being, safety, and development.



Principle 1 – Governance and Leadership

We recognise that we have a role to play in promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.



1.1 Business takes steps to establish a safeguarding governance structure across the organisation outlining the role that each person plays in promoting the safety, wellbeing, inclusivity and appreciation of children and young people as valued stakeholders.

1.2 Business undertakes due diligence about the potential and actual risks or adverse impacts impacts of its business operations, activities and supply chains on the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

1.3 Business implements clear processes to enable personnel to identify, respond and report any concerns of harm or abuse to children.

2.1 Business seeks to mitigate risks to children and young people by setting clear expectations for employees, contractors and suppliers that the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a priority, and that abuse, and exploitation of children and young people will not be tolerated.

2.2 Business works towards developing child safeguarding policies and processes that consider the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

2.3 Business provides relevant personnel knowledge and skills to enable them to identify concerns about the safety of children and young people and take effective action, and undertakes checks as appropriate.

2

Principle 2 – People and Practices

We recognise that it is important for our people and business practices to be safe for children and young people.

3

Principle 3 – Children and Young People’s Voice

We seek to include the voice of children and young people when making decisions that may affect their safety and wellbeing.

3.1 Businesses has or works towards building feedback and complaints mechanisms that are accessible to children, young people and their families, incorporating their perspectives for ongoing improvement.

3.2 Business evaluates the safety and suitability of its products and services for children and young people, including with consideration for any actual or potential risks or adverse impacts on the safety of children and young people, or opportunities to create a positive impact.

3.3 Business seeks to incorporate the views and experiences of children and young people when reviewing, developing and implementing relevant policies and procedures that aim to keep children and young people safe.

4.1 Business seeks to regularly review and report on the outcomes of its child safeguarding strategy and initiatives.

4.2 Business seeks to collaborate with other businesses to learn from and exchange experiences about their approaches to safeguarding children and young people.

4.3 Business seeks opportunities to use its influence and capability to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people across the communities it operates in.



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Principle 4 – Collaboration and Continuous Improvement

We recognise the importance of collective action, and that it is on all of us to keep children and young people safe.



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On Us: Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children empowers businesses to protect children and young people from harm, abuse, and exploitation.

Through our Child Safeguarding Business Principles, we provide guidance, resources, and tools to help companies integrate child safeguarding into their operations, products, and services.

Join us in making a difference

Be part of a coalition that values child safeguarding and sets a standard for responsible business practices.

Visit onus.org.au today to learn more and take action to safeguard children in your industry.

