

# Safeguarding Commitment

## Statement

### Introduction

**yourtown** is committed to ensuring that the rights of children and young people under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are upheld.

We seek to ensure that all children, young people and adults at risk are safe from harm, are respected and nurtured so as to reach their full potential in life.

There is a clear expectation that at all times and under all circumstances, everyone will uphold the ethical and moral commitment we have to children and young people's safety and wellbeing.

### yourtown's Position

**yourtown** is committed to providing services that protect and keep children, young people and adults at risk free from harm. At all times children and young people are supported and encouraged to have their voices heard, to seek justice and to access counselling and other support services in order to overcome the impacts of harm.

**yourtown** understands that the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people requires an organisational culture whereby all those engaged in the mission prioritise the wellbeing of children, young people and adults at risk, and evidence a commitment to compliance with approved policies and standards.

Accordingly, **yourtown** implements, evaluates and refines strategies, standards and procedures to ensure:

- clear accountabilities are set and a zero tolerance approach to abuse or harm violations is understood by all, enforced and responded to appropriately
- governance structures champion a safeguarding culture and such culture is evident
- personnel working with children and young people hold a current Working with Children clearance for each relevant jurisdiction in which they work and are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children, young people and adults at risk safe
- personnel are knowledgeable of their responsibilities regarding any disclosures and/or reasonable suspicions of abuse or harm, including mandatory reporting requirements to relevant authorities
- physical and online environments are established and managed to minimise risks
- the practices of personnel are supervised and reviewed to support practice standards, to achieve ongoing learning and promote the development and application of new ideas and strategies
- processes that facilitate safeguarding and safe environments are documented, maintained and communicated to children, young people, adults at risk, personnel, and the wider community through appropriate training and awareness raising strategies
- strategies for the participation of children and young people in the development of services, programs, and advocacy and research initiatives are developed and maintained
- there are no barriers to the raising of concerns or complaints by, or on behalf of, children and young people and, when raised, they are prioritised and dealt with respectfully, compassionately and in accordance with relevant standards, legislation and **yourtown's** protocols, with feedback provided on a regular basis including details of the outcome determined
- accurate records are kept of any complaints and/or reasonable suspicions, and responses
- safeguarding risks are identified, controls maintained and actively managed, and risks are reviewed regularly.

**yourtown** will regularly evaluate the effectiveness of its practices with regard to Safeguarding and undertake internal and external auditing to ensure all commitments are met.

Title: Safeguarding Commitment Statement - bd

Approval Date: 27-Aug-20

Approval Authority: **yourtown** Board of Directors

COMPANY CONFIDENTIAL Correct when printed from the Document Portal. Printed documents are uncontrolled.

DN: POS-1976

Review Date: 27-Aug-21

Page: 1 of 1