



position statement

safeguarding commitment

Document Number	POS-1976	Approval Date	26 Oct 23
Approved by	yourtown Board of Executives	Review Date	26 Oct 26
Document owner	Office of the Chief Executive		
Applies to	All yourtown		

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.

There is a clear expectation that team members will uphold the ethical, legal, and moral commitment we have to the safety and wellbeing of children, young people, and adults at risk, at all times.

yourtown's position

yourtown is committed to providing services that protect and keep children, young people, and adults at risk, free from abuse, harm and risk of harm, ensuring they are treated with dignity and respect. All who engage with **yourtown** are supported and encouraged to have their voices heard, to self-advocate, give feedback or complain, to seek justice, and to access counselling and other support services to overcome the impacts of harm.

yourtown understands that the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and young people requires an organisational culture where all those engaged in the mission prioritise the safety and 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, policies, and procedures to ensure:

- clear accountabilities are set and a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, harm, risk of harm and neglect is understood by all, enforced and responded to appropriately
- governance structures champion a safeguarding culture, and such culture is evident
- team members working with children and young people hold a current Working with Children clearance for each relevant jurisdiction in which they work, a satisfactory National Criminal History Check, and are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children, young people and adults at risk safe
- team members are knowledgeable of their responsibilities regarding any disclosures and/or reasonable suspicions of harm, including mandatory reporting requirements to relevant authorities
- physical and online environments are established to support accessibility, and managed to minimise risks and promote health, wellbeing and safety
- welcoming, safe, equitable and inclusive environments for people from all backgrounds, languages, and cultures including those with specific needs and those living with disability or suffering from an illness, those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, children in out of home care, those who are homeless, and children and adults of diverse sexuality
- cultural safety for children, young people, adults and risk and their families from all cultures, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, to ensure their wellbeing and safety

safeguarding commitment	DN:	POS-1976
COMPANY CONFIDENTIAL Correct when printed from the Document Portal. Printed documents are uncontrolled.		Page: 1 of 2



- the practices of team members 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, young people, adults at risk and their families in the development of services, programs, and advocacy and research initiatives are developed and maintained
- children, young people, and adults at risk and their families are informed about their rights when engaging with **yourtown**
- any door is the right door for making any form of disclosure, complaint, or feedback made by, or on behalf of children, young people and adults at risk, 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, and
- safeguarding risks are identified, controls maintained and actively managed, and risks are reviewed regularly.

yourtown will regularly evaluate the effectiveness of its practices regarding safeguarding and undertake internal and external auditing to ensure all commitments are met.

yourtown Safeguarding and Investigations Officer can be contacted by email at safeguarding@yourtown.com.au

document review details

Review Details	Review Date	Revision
Revised to reflect existence of SiPPP and mirror its language and content where appropriate. Updated to align with yourtown branding.	22/2/2023	1
Revised to align with National Catholic Safeguarding Standards edt. 2.	9/10/2023	1.1