

# Implementing the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

## Case Study: Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries



### Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) is committed to enriching the lives of Western Australians (WA), supporting, and enhancing communities, and building and maintaining strong regulatory functions. We work collaboratively with government agencies, community organisations, peak bodies and other stakeholders to achieve our vision of creating a vibrant, inclusive and connected WA community.

The DLGSC provides services to children and young people through the five recreation camp facilities, and the operation of the State Library of WA, Art Gallery WA and WA Museum which children and young people attend. DLGSC also funds or oversees a range of other initiatives that involve engagement with children, including sporting and arts programs, community language schools, activities in local governments and multicultural events.

### Project in brief

The DLGSC is working to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (National Principles) within the department. The DLGSC leadership is committed to embedding child safe practices and culture in the department to make sure we are keeping children who engage with our services and funded programs safe from harm.

### The journey

In June 2022, DLGSC established a Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit (CSIU) to support DLGSC, its industry sectors, and partner organisations in implementing child safety reforms arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

It was recognised there is significant work required to integrate the National Principles into DLGSC's own policies and practices, to implement other child safe reforms, and to genuinely embed child safeguarding into DLGSC's culture. It is a long-term and ongoing process and a collective responsibility of all areas across DLGSC.

To begin this work, the CSIU convened a meeting of the DLGSC Child Safeguarding Working Group (Working Group). This group comprises representatives from each of the business and operational areas of DLGSC, including Local Government, Sport and Recreation, Culture and the Arts, the Office of Multicultural Interests, Racing, Gaming and Liquor, Corporate Services, Infrastructure and the Combat Sports Commission.

The Working Group collaboratively developed a Child Safe Actions Workplan (Workplan) that identifies specific and measurable actions, timeframes and the lead and support areas for each, within the four pillars of child safe reforms under which DLGSC has obligations: National Principles; Working with Children Checks; Reportable Conduct Scheme; and the National Redress Scheme.

The involvement of all business and operational areas in the development of the Workplan has been essential. It enabled agreement on lead and support responsibilities of areas to

progress each of the actions in the Workplan. This supports shared ownership of the work to embed child safe practices and culture at DLGSC.

The Workplan was endorsed by the DLGSC Corporate Executive which has provided the authorising environment for each area to begin delivery of the actions for which they have lead responsibility.

### Outcomes

The expected outcomes that will be achieved through the delivery of actions in the Workplan are to:

- build the capacity and capability of DLGSC to create safer environments and better outcomes for children through matured policies, processes, and practices
- lead a cultural shift which prioritises the safety of children, by empowering every level of DLGSC to implement child safe practices
- assist DLGSC to meet emerging and existing legislative and regulatory requirements
- enable DLGSC to demonstrate its commitment to child safety to its staff, stakeholders, sector partners and the broader community.



## Sharing the learning

Engaging with each of DLGSC’s business and operational areas to seek input and understanding of its individual child safeguarding risks and needs was pivotal to the development of a comprehensive Workplan. It reinforces the message and approach that child safeguarding is a collective responsibility across the department and not the responsibility of one area, similar to the collective responsibility for workplace health and safety.

## Next steps

The CSIU has recently developed a framework for monitoring and reporting to Executive on progress to deliver actions in the Workplan. This will involve a collaborative effort from all business and operational areas in DLGSC to track progress of the actions they lead or support and provide regular status updates on work to progress and deliver actions. It will also enable the CSIU and Working Group to identify and respond if actions are at risk of not being completed by their designated due date.

This regular monitoring and reporting on progress will enable DLGSC robust oversight of internal implementation of child safe reforms.

Last updated: April 2024

DLGSC Child Safe Actions		DLGSC Child Safe Actions			
National Principle	Action	Lead area	Support areas	Indicative sequencing of implementation	Status
National Principle 1: Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture	Release a DLGSC statement of commitment to child safety.	Comms	CSIU, ODG	Short term	Underway
National Principle 1: Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture	Update DLGSC Child Safe Policy and Framework and explore opportunities to promote these across DLGSC.	CSIU	Corp Services, Coms	Short term	Underway
National Principle 2: Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.	Establish avenues and opportunities for children and young people who engage with DLGSC's services to express their views and participate in decisions that impact them. Provide training to staff where needed on how to support children to participate / express their views.	CSIU	Camps, CATA, Comms, Local Gov, OMI, SAPE, S&R	Long term	Dependent on other actions before starting
National Principle 2: Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.	Staff and volunteers are provided with information to help them understand, recognise and act on signs of child abuse or harm.	CSIU	Camps, Comms, HR (Learning & Development)	Intermediate	Underway
National Principle 3: Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing	Review DLGSC's child-related policies to determine whether they reflect the importance of family and community involvement and describe the way this involvement can occur, and update if required.	CSIU	SPA, OMI, SAPE, RGL	Intermediate	Ready to start
National Principle 3: Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing	Complaint handling policies include procedures for keeping families informed and provide guidance on how to do this while complying with obligations regarding confidentiality and privacy.	CSIU	SPA, Corp Services, Integrity	Short term	Underway

Figure 1. DLGSC Child Safe Actions Workplan

