



## **Commonwealth Child Safe Framework 2021 Statement of Compliance**

### **FamilyCare's commitment to Child Safety:**

- Child safety is at the heart of all of FamilyCare's services and systems.
- All of FamilyCare's Board, Staff and Volunteers are required to support, adopt and follow the Child Safe Statement included in FamilyCare's Code of Conduct.
- The first two commitments in FamilyCare's Child Safe Statement are:
  - We believe every child has the right to be safe.
  - We will prioritise safety in all of our services and activities that involve children.
- The Child Safe Statement also recognises the vital role that culture plays in the safety of Aboriginal Children.
- A detailed system for monitoring and compliance supports FamilyCare's commitments to child safety.
- That system is compliant with :
  - The Victorian Child Safe Standards
  - The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
  - FamilyCare's accreditation against ISO 9001:2015.

### **Declaration of compliance and improvement measures:**

- FamilyCare is compliant with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework.
- An improvement identified some years ago, is the need to continually enhance opportunities for children to have a say, provide feedback and make complaints.
- FamilyCare is continuing to explore ways in which to assist children understand their right to provide input, in ways that are responsive to different ages, stages and levels of comprehension.

### **FamilyCare's interactions with Children:**

- All of FamilyCare's service activities can include contact with children.
- FamilyCare's interactions with children are extensive and include:
  - Online
  - In-person, individually and in groups
  - Case-management and

- Community development activities.
- FamilyCare does not provide any residential services, however does have regular contact with the Child Protection and Out of Home Care Systems.
- As well as the Child Safe Statement, FamilyCare has a specific Child Safe Policy to guide the preparation of procedures and work guidance, relevant to services and activities that involve children.

### **The outcome of FamilyCare's 2021 child safe risk assessment:**

- FamilyCare's child safety risk assessment incorporated a review of a standing risk item relating to the Abuse and Neglect of children.
- The standing risk is owned by FamilyCare's Director of Services and is reviewed at least bi-monthly.
- The risk is rated as medium with the potential impact extreme, but the likelihood of occurrence rare.
- Significant incidents or occasions of non-compliance are reported as required to relevant government bodies and monthly to FamilyCare's Board.
- As relevant, allegations or evidence of abuse and neglect will be reported to police.
- The 2021 child safety risk assessment found that FamilyCare is compliant with its obligations and is managing risk in a proactive, effective manner.

### **Child Safety initiatives in the last year**

- FamilyCare has an ongoing training and professional development platform, on-line and face-to-face (as restrictions allow), which identifies child safety as a priority.
- In the last year FamilyCare has:
  - Developed and promoted a specific Listening to Children and Young People Procedure, to provide focus and assist in the development of appropriate tools for children to provide input; and
  - Included on our website, under the references to Our Services, a dedicated page describing Our Commitments to Children.



Ann Sexton  
Board Chair



David Tennant  
CEO

Dated: 22 October 2021