

## Child Safe Framework

### 2024 Public 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 and connection to community plays in the safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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.
- FamilyCare offers children opportunities to have a say, provide feedback and make complaints and is continually looking for ways to enhance those opportunities.
- FamilyCare has a variety of tools to assist children to 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 instructions, relevant to services and activities that involve children.

### **The outcome of FamilyCare’s 2024 child safe risk assessment:**

- FamilyCare’s child safety risk assessment incorporates 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, with a full agency Child Risk Assessment conducted at least annually.
- 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 2024 child safety risk assessment confirmed 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 updated its online training and professional development platform for staff and volunteers, with child safety continuing to be recognised as a priority.
- In the last year, FamilyCare has:
  - Actively promoted and participated in events that raise awareness of children’s human rights and their right to be safe.
  - Developed additional accessible formats for the collection of feedback from children and young people.
  - Partnered with the ANU’s Children’s Policy Centre to support the nationally significant More for Children Research project.

Ann Sexton  
Board Chair

David Tennant  
CEO

Dated: 30 September 2024