



# CHILD SAFETY FRAMEWORK PARENTS & GUARDIANS GUIDE

## Child Safety Framework Parents & Guardians Guide

**The following Child Safe resource is provided as a reference only.**

This document and its content is provided as a guide for your organisation as of July 2020. Your organisation should also consider referencing any information, documents and strategies that might be specifically required for your organisation and relevant to its circumstances, structure and operations.

The information contained in this document is general in nature and should not be considered or relied upon as a substitute for legal advice.

**Please note that references in [square brackets] throughout this document should be tailored for your organisation's policies and procedures.**

Cricket Victoria recommends using this resource with due consideration and consulting a child safe expert or legal advisor to assist with any questions.

The Australian **Cricket Child Safety Framework** sets out the responsibilities that all Victorian Associations, Clubs and Cricket Participants (including parents and guardians) have to keep kids in cricket safe. It consists of:

- Australian Cricket’s Commitment Statement for Safeguarding Children and Young People;
- Australian Cricket’s Policy for Safeguarding Children and Young People; and
- Australian Cricket’s Looking After Our Kids Code of Behaviour.
- Looking After Our Kids Action Plan.

### WHY YOUR KIDS’ SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY:

1. We love our game and your kids playing our game. We want them to keep playing cricket. Yet we realise that they have to FEEL safe to enjoy cricket and want to keep playing.
2. All kids have a right to feel safe, be involved and have a voice in decisions that affect them\*.
3. Society has changed, and with it, higher standards of behaviour are now expected – of all of us. Sometimes, even though we have good intentions, others’ perception of behaviour is different. So we want to help you to understand what needs to happen now to protect your kids in cricket, as well as to help you.

### WHAT WE’RE TRYING TO DO:

1. We’re here to help. Victoria has legislative requirements and mandatory standards in place about child safety. We can’t ignore those. But we want to make it as simple as possible for you, your kids and all of our Victorian cricket organisations.
2. We’ve developed these resources for you to explain how we keep your kids safe in cricket. They explain what we need to do and where to find help or further information. The best place to start to understand all this, keep our kids feeling safe and enjoying cricket is this **Parents & Guardians Guide**.

### SOME CHILD SAFETY GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS:

You know your kids best. Also, our schools now often teach their students about safety, boundaries with adults and that it’s OK to speak up if they don’t feel comfortable or safe around certain adults. Yet you can also help us to reinforce the key messages we have for kids about child safety in cricket, just as in life.

The **three key messages** we have in our “**Kids Guide to Keeping Safe in Cricket**” are:

1. Cricket should be fun, safe and enjoyable.
2. You should never feel uncomfortable around others in cricket, particularly adults.
3. If you don’t feel safe or comfortable, it’s OK to speak up. We want you to tell an adult that you trust – whether that’s your Mum or Dad, guardian, coach or another member of your cricket club or family.

We know that kids are more likely to speak up if they **feel valued** and are **listened to** in an authentic and **genuine** way. So please help us to **keep the conversations open with your kids** about how they are feeling when they are part of our cricket community.

### SOME CONVERSATION TIPS TO TALK ABOUT SAFETY WITH YOUR KIDS:

It's not always comfortable talking to kids about how they are feeling in our cricket community or other environments. The delivery of conversations is just as important as the message or content itself. You're more likely to engage with kids about tricky topics if the conversation is calm, non-judgmental and open. That is, you're listening carefully to them and open to hearing more – showing empathy and letting them know that they're doing the right thing by talking.

To open up a conversation with your child about safety in cricket, first of all, choose the right time. Sometimes, you may get more information in casual interactions, such as when driving in the car. You could try using an example that you have heard of with another kid and whether they had seen or heard anything similar. For example, "*another parent or guardian at the club told me that they were worried about how the coach is talking to their child. Have you seen or heard anything similar?*".

### IF YOU NEED HELP

If ever your child tells you that they are not happy, comfortable or safe playing cricket, [please tell an appropriate person in cricket such as your Club's Child Safety Officer or a trusted Club or Association senior person](#). Then we'll make sure that any issue raised is dealt with appropriately and in line with our Child Safety Framework.

If you reasonably believe<sup>^</sup> that any child is in immediate danger from Child Abuse or is in a life threatening situation, please call 000 to speak with police. You can also contact services such as Parent Helpline, NAPCAN, Lifeline, Kids Helpline and the Raising Children Network. Then advise the Club's Child Safety Officer or trusted Club or Association senior person of the issue and action taken, so the Club or Association is able to take any further steps required under the Child Safety Framework.

\*Australian Government National Child Office for Child Safety Complaint Handling Guide: Upholding the rights of children and young people – A Reference Guide, 2019.

# Commission for Children and Young People – Empowerment and Participation of Children Tip Sheet

<sup>^</sup> A **reasonable belief** is one that a reasonable person in the same position would have formed the belief on the same grounds.