



## CHILD SAFE STATEMENT

West Wimmera Shire Council are committed to:

- Protecting all children in the West Wimmera Shire Council, including -
  - Children of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander descent
  - Children of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
  - Children with a disability
- Have robust policies, procedures and code of conducts in place to protect children in their care and educational services
- Understand child abuse reporting processes and respond promptly
- Have safeguards to protect children, staff, volunteers and the organisation
- Have clearly stated boundaries of roles between staff and children
- Extensive screening processes and comprehensive induction and probation practices
- Employ staff who are adequately trained and supervised
- Promote cultural safety and inclusion for the best interests of the child
- Strategies to reduce and remove risk of child abuse
- Conducting regular child safety review audits and action plans to identify gaps in policy and procedures
- Maintain a risk management plan for the prevention of child abuse
- Child safety being included in important council documents and reports via social communications
- Raising awareness about child abuse and child rights in media
- Have an appointed Child Safety Officer (the Early Years Coordinator) who is appropriately trained in mandatory reporting
- Promoting the rights of the child
- A supportive culture for all children's safety
- Zero tolerance of child abuse
- Providing children with information regarding safety to enable and encourage them to express their views