

# Child Safety Policy

## Bellarine Catchment Network



### Table of Contents:

Child Safe Mission Statement	2
Statement of Commitment to Child Safety	3

Last Updated: April 2020

Bellarine Catchment Network would like to acknowledge the Geelong Field Naturalists in providing their Child Safe Policy as guidance in developing this document.

# Child Safety Policy

## Bellarine Catchment Network



### CHILD SAFE STATEMENT

Bellarine Catchment Network is committed to child safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children.

Bellarine Catchment Network has a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse, and is committed to upholding children's best interests and keeping them safe.

We promote diversity and tolerance within our organisation, in our partnerships, in our interactions with community and in all of our child-based activities.



### STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

BCN has zero tolerance for child abuse and all forms of harm to children. BCN is committed to child safety in accordance with the Child Safe Standards, compulsory minimum standards for all organisations in Victoria providing services to children under the age of 18 years.

Bellarine Catchment Network is committed to:

- The safety, participation and empowerment of children
- Understanding and supporting child safety policies and practices
- Promoting cultural safety, participation and empowerment of all children including children who are indigenous, gender diverse, children with disability, same sex attracted, and culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- The establishment and continuous improvement of a child safe policy and supporting procedures
- The prevention of child abuse by regularly training and educating our employees and volunteers on BCN commitment, policies and procedures and child safe practices
- Always being compliant with Commonwealth Government and Victorian Government legislation, guidelines and practices in the promotion of child safety and prevention of child abuse
- Taking all reasonable steps for thorough recruitment due diligence, including the requirement that all employees, contractors and volunteers in child facing roles hold a valid Working with Children Check
- By always adhering to the BCN Child Safe Code of Conduct and Child Safe Guideline Practices
- The modelling of Child Safe Standards at Bellarine Catchment Network by the leadership team
- Supporting and adhering to our business partners Child Safety code of conduct and practices
- Working with our partners, in the provision of clear, fair and transparent processes in responding to, and the timely reporting of, actual or suspected child abuse