**Commitment to Child Safety**

Bellarine Catchment Network
**Last updated:** January 2023

**BCN Child Safe Statement of Commitment**

BCN will not tolerate any child abuse or harm to children. BCN is committed to the safety, involvement, and right for all children to have a say in all our activities, projects and events, including children who are indigenous, LGBTQIA+, children with disability, children living away from home, and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.

The wellbeing of children involved in our community and educational activities, projects, and events, will always be our priority and we aim to create a child safe, child friendly, and accepting place for all children.

All staff, committee members, and volunteers must know and practice BCN Child Safe policies, procedures, and practices.

**BCN’s Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing**

BCN is committed to child safety and wellbeing. We want children to be safe, happy, respected and encouraged to speak up and contribute. We have no tolerance of child abuse or harm, and all safety concerns and complaints of abuse or harm will be treated very seriously and responded to urgently.

BCN Committee, Staff, committee members, and Volunteers:

* promote and practice Child Safety as described in the BCN Child Safe Documents.,
* are trained in Child Safety policies, procedures and practices including recognizing and reducing risks, and are familiar with all reporting requirements
* will regularly review Child Safe Documents as well as undertake regular Child Safety training
* All BCN Committee members, staff and volunteers, where considered appropriate, must sign and practice the BCN Child Safety Code of Conduct which describes expectations and appropriate behavior as well as the consequence of failing to comply to the Code of Conduct
* BCN retains all Child Safe related documents including comments, suggestions, concerns and reported incidents.
* BCN provides activities, projects, events, and services on behalf of other organizations such as schools. BCN staff and volunteers must familiarize and practice those organization’s Child Safe policies, procedures, and practices.

The BCN Leadership Team and the Child Safety Officer will review our policies, procedures, practices every 2 years or when required.