

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT



Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network is a Child Safe organisation, with zero tolerance for child abuse and a commitment to children's best interests. All children who participate in our activities have a right to feel and be safe. We encourage children to express their views and we listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them.

LCLN is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe. LCLN understands that all children are vulnerable and will consider the increased vulnerability of Aboriginal children, those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and children with disabilities.

Every person at LCLN working directly with children and young people has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays to ensure the wellbeing and safety of those children and young people.

Physical or sexual abuse of a child is a crime and will be reported to police, including grooming for sexual conduct with a child under the age of 16 years. All adults who form a reasonable belief that such a sexual offence has occurred have an obligation to report it to police.

To deliver on our commitment to child safety, the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network will:

- Ensure children know who to talk to if they are feeling unsafe and that they are encouraged and comfortable to raise such issues
- **Listen** if children report feeling uncomfortable
- Ensure that parents / carers that bring children to activities are advised that they must directly supervise their child at all times
- Ensure all unaccompanied children work in groups of three or more with either two or more adults or with children of a similar age
- Ensure that no child is alone with only one other person at any time
- Design activities so there are clear sightlines and obstruct any hidden places that could conceal inappropriate conduct
- Have a Code of Conduct covering child safety and make it a condition of membership
- Make sure all activity organisers / leaders have Working with Children Checks



CHILD SAFETY CODE OF CONDUCT

A Child Safety Code of Conduct lists behaviour that are acceptable and those that are unacceptable. It provides a high-level statement of professional boundaries, ethical behaviour and acceptable and unacceptable relationships.

When individuals are clear about behavioural expectations, they are much more likely to act appropriately with each other and with children. When everyone is educated about the Code of Conduct and the reasons it is so important to uphold, the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network becomes much more transparent and people are accountable for their behaviour.

Above all, a Child Safety Code of Conduct helps to protect children from harm. The Code is made available to all staff and volunteers.

The Child Safety Code of Conduct applies to all staff and volunteers working within the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network.

CODE OF CONDUCT

This Child Safety Code of Conduct outlines appropriate standards of behaviour for all adults towards children. The Code serves to protect children and young people, reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur, and promote child safety within the Latrobe Catchment Landcare Network. It provides guidance on how to best support children and how to avoid or better manage difficult situations.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct will result in a warning or a suspension of membership.

DO

- Take all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Listen to children if they report feeling uncomfortable
- Model appropriate adult behaviour
- Listen to children and respond to them appropriately
- Welcome all children and their carers and be inclusive
- Treat all students with respect
- Report any breaches of the Child Safety Code of Conduct to the LCLN coordinator
- Intervene when a child or young person is engaging in inappropriate bullying behaviour towards others or acting in a humiliating or vilifying way.
- Respect privacy of children and only disclose information to people who need to know

DO NOT

- Ignore or disregard any complaints, concerns, or disclosures regarding child safety
- Develop 'special' relationships with specific children or show favouritism with gifts or inappropriate attention
- Exchange personal contact details such as phone numbers, social networking site or email addresses with children.
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or inappropriate language with a child or young person.
- Engage in inappropriate or unnecessary physical conduct or behaviours including doing things of a personal nature that a student can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- Engage in any form of physical violence towards a child or young person including inappropriately rough physical play.
- Take or publish (including online) photos, movies or recordings of a child or young person without parental/guardian consent.
- Post online any information about a child or young person that may identify them such as their: full name; age; e-mail address; telephone number; residence; school; or details of a club or group they may attend.

REPORT ANY CONCERNS

Any concerns should be immediately reported to:

- Latrobe Network Landcare Coordinator - John Crosby 0429 808 411
- Landcare Victoria Inc - 03 9207 5527
- CCYP 1300 78 29 78

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger, the Police should be contacted on 000.