

Berry Street Statement of Commitment: Child Safe Organisation

Berry Street is committed to being a Child Safe Organisation.

Many of the children and young people we support have experienced abuse, neglect or trauma during childhood. That's why they find themselves at Berry Street. Central to our work is providing them with a safe, nurturing environment and the support and opportunities to heal and grow.

We are committed to being a child safe, child friendly and child empowering organisation. We recognise, respect and promote children's rights within Berry Street and the broader community. We require that every person that is part of this organisation, every Board Member, staff member, carer and volunteer treats the rights, interests and safety of children as paramount.

As both a past and a current provider of care Berry Street takes seriously the lessons it has learnt from many of its past care practices that were neither child safe nor child friendly. We maintain a commitment to support and advocate for past clients including Forgotten Australians, the Stolen Generations and care leavers.

There is zero tolerance for any form of child abuse or maltreatment within the organisation and zero tolerance for not reporting any suspected abuse or maltreatment both internally and to external authorities including Police and Child Protection. In everything we do we seek to protect children; we listen and respond if harm or abuse occurs and remain open, honest and transparent about any failings.

Berry Street works with groups of children and young people who may be particularly vulnerable to abuse. Accordingly Berry Street pays particular attention to:

- The safety of children in out of home care
- The cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children
- The cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- The safety of children with a disability
- The safety of children who identify with a sexual minority identity and/or gender minority identity.

We are committed to preventing abuse by identifying risks children may face in different settings and reducing and removing those risks. We know that children, including those in our care, can be vulnerable to abuse and exploitation online. We understand that ongoing education of staff, carers and volunteers on the risks to children and child safe practices, behaviours and boundaries is central to being a child safe organisation.

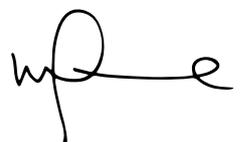
As a child safe organisation Berry Street:

- Has zero tolerance for failing to report suspected abuse
- Works to maintain environments where children are safe, respected, listened to, their views valued and their concerns acted upon
- Is proactive in assessing and managing risks of abuse to children
- Listens and responds to all complaints and allegations of abuse
- Works according to Victoria's Child Safe Standards and Principles
- Has clear policies and procedures in place to enable us to meet our commitments as a Child Safe Organisation

If you would like to more information about Berry Street's child safe commitment or would like to raise a concern you can email childsafety@berrystreet.org.au or call our Child Safe Officer.



Penny Armytage
President, Berry Street Board



Michael Perusco
Chief Executive Officer

5 June 2018