

Child Safety Policy

Mois Art Studio

ABN 80684651108

1. Purpose

This Child Safety Policy demonstrates our commitment to promoting and protecting the safety, welfare, and wellbeing of all children and young people involved in our arts and recreation programs. MOIS ART STUDIO takes a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse and actively works to ensure a safe environment for all children and young people, in compliance with the Child Safe Standards as outlined by the Victorian Government.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, contractors, and any other individuals engaged in providing services or activities for children and young people in our business.

3. Our Commitment to Child Safety

- We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing our services, ensuring they are respected and listened to.
- We support and respect all children, young people, and their families.
- We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, culturally and linguistically diverse children, and children with disabilities.

4. Child Protection Responsibilities

Every person involved in our business has a responsibility to understand the important role they play in protecting children and young people and ensuring a child-safe environment.

- Management Responsibilities:
 - Ensure that the business complies with all child safety legal obligations.
 - Provide appropriate training and resources to staff to ensure they understand and comply with child safety policies and procedures.
 - Conduct background checks (including Working with Children Checks) on all staff, volunteers, and contractors working with children.
- Staff Responsibilities:

- Follow all policies and procedures regarding child safety.
- Immediately report any concerns or allegations of child abuse to management.
- Actively support a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for children of all backgrounds and abilities.

5. Child Empowerment and Participation

We encourage and support children to participate in decisions that affect them and their involvement in our arts and recreation programs. We:

- Provide opportunities for children to express their views on issues impacting their safety and wellbeing.
- Take children's opinions seriously and encourage participation and empowerment in a culturally safe and respectful manner.

6. Recruitment and Training of Staff

We implement a robust recruitment process to ensure that we employ individuals who are suitable to work with children and young people. This includes:

- Conducting Working with Children Checks (WWCC) or Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT) registration for all relevant personnel.
- Training all staff and volunteers on child safety standards, including recognising and reporting abuse and fostering an inclusive, child-safe environment.

7. Code of Conduct

All staff, volunteers, and contractors are required to adhere to the following Code of Conduct:

- Treat all children with respect, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or disability.
- Listen to and value children's ideas and opinions.
- Report any concerns about child safety immediately to the appropriate authority.
- Avoid situations where staff are alone with children unless it is a necessary and appropriate aspect of the activity or service provided.

8. Reporting and Responding to Child Safety Concerns

We take all allegations of child abuse seriously and will respond to any complaints, allegations, or concerns according to our procedures and in compliance with the Victorian Government's Mandatory Reporting requirements.

- All staff and volunteers are required to report any suspected abuse to their manager or directly to relevant authorities such as the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or Victoria Police.
- Immediate action will be taken to protect the child, with support services provided as necessary.

9. Risk Management

We conduct regular risk assessments to identify and mitigate potential risks to child safety within our arts and recreation programs. This includes considering the physical environment, activities conducted, and interactions between staff and children.

10. Review

This Child Safety Policy will be reviewed annually or when legislation changes to ensure ongoing compliance with the Child Safe Standards and to reflect any changes within the business or its practices.

Date: 9.9.2024

Signed:  _____

AMOR SEVILLENO

FOUNDER

MOIS ART STUDIO