

1. Statement of commitment

What do I need to do?

Your risk management strategy must include a statement about your organisation's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and the protection of children from harm. The purpose of your statement of commitment is to provide an overarching statement which will set the tone for your entire child and youth risk management strategy and which will positively influence your organisation's culture.

Why do I need a statement of commitment?

The culture of your organisation is a critical factor in successfully mitigating the risks of harm to children in your service environment. Your statement of commitment should reflect the culture of your organisation and provide a useful foundation to guide the decisions and actions of people who work, or come into contact, with children and young people.

How do I draft a statement of commitment?

When drafting a statement of commitment you should consider your organisation's aims and values and how they relate to providing child-related services.

The statement you create may vary in length depending on the nature of the services your organisation provides to children and young people.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- How do the services/activities provided by your organisation contribute to the development and wellbeing of children and young people?
- What are the values of your organisation and how do they relate to the safety and wellbeing of children?
- What can your organisation do to protect children from harm and promote their wellbeing?
- What is the purpose of your risk management strategy?

TIPS

- Use language that is strong, clear and direct.
- You may wish to start your statement with phrases such as
 - Our organisation is committed to...
 - Our organisation supports...
 - Our organisation is dedicated to...
 - Our organisation ensures...
- Explicitly state that it is a "statement of commitment". This is an effective way of communicating to people involved with your organisation that the safety of children is of utmost importance to you.
- Display your statement of commitment in a prominent place where staff, parents, children and visitors can be reminded of your organisation's specific commitment.

SAMPLE STATEMENTS

Sample 1 – for organisations

(Insert your organisation's name) is committed to providing services to children and young people to assist them to *(include information about the skills, support or values that your organisation assists children and young people to develop)*.

Our organisation is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and will endeavour to provide a safe and supportive service environment for children and young people by... *(list actions your organisation will take)*.

The following values reflect the culture that we are committed to promoting within our organisation.... *(list the values which apply to your organisation)*.

Sample 2 – for self-employed persons

I am committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, and will treat them with respect and understanding at all times. In order to provide a positive and supportive environment where learning and skill development is encouraged and facilitated, I will conduct my business activities in accordance with the following values...*(list the values)*.