

Information for Schools and Services

Background

On 11 September 2024, the *Child Safe Organisations Act 2024* (Qld) (**The Act**) passed. This Act is based largely on a recommendation from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Final Report.

Under the Act, from 1 January 2026, schools and colleges (**Schools**) and early childhood education and care services (**Services**) are required to implement the 10 Child Safe Standards (**CSS**) and Universal Principle. From 1 July 2026, Schools and Services are required to implement the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

This Statement of Commitment is designed to support compliance with CSS 1, that is, embedding child safety and wellbeing in the organisational leadership, governance and culture.

Implementation Guidance

Most Schools and Services will already have a statement of commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and students and protecting children and students from harm, as this was a requirement under Schedule 1, s2(1) of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2000* (Qld). This would usually be a tailored statement of commitment that aligns with your School's or Service's individual values.

If so, you should ensure your statement of commitment is updated to reflect the inclusion of the CSS and Universal Principle, and is consistent with this LEQ statement.

If you do not have a statement of commitment, you must adopt this LEQ statement.

Please note that your old Child Management Risk Management Statements and Strategies are superseded by the CSS (see section 111 of the Act, that says certain sections of the *Working With Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (Qld) no longer applies).

References

- *Child Safe Organisations Act 2024* (Qld)
- ISQ Reportable Conduct Scheme Member Hub Guidance
- ISQ Guide to Developing a Statement of Commitment to Student Safety and Wellbeing
- Australian Human Rights Commission Charter of Commitment to Children and Young People

The Lutheran Education Queensland system of Lutheran schools, colleges and early childhood education and care services in Queensland (**LEQ**) is committed to providing environments where children and students are safe, supported, and able to thrive.

We have zero tolerance for child abuse, harm, neglect, or exploitation in any form. The safety and wellbeing of children and students is our highest priority and the paramount consideration in all decision-making involving children and students.

We recognise that safeguarding children and students requires deliberate, consistent action. This includes maintaining strong systems, building capability across our workforce, and ensuring that concerns are taken seriously and acted upon without delay.

We are committed to:

- acting with the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and students as the paramount consideration at all times
- exceeding the 10 Child Safe Standards in every part and activity of our organisation
- creating culturally safe environments that are free of racism and discrimination, and upholding the right to cultural safety of all children, and especially those who are Aboriginal persons or Torres Strait Island persons (**the universal principle**)



Policy Template

- creating and maintaining environments that prevent harm and reduce risk through strong governance, supervision and safe practices
- listening to, respecting, and taking seriously the voices of children and students
- responding promptly and appropriately to concerns, disclosures, or allegations, including through fair and child-centred processes
- complying with all legislative and regulatory child safety obligations, including mandatory reporting and the Reportable Conduct Scheme

This commitment will be communicated to children, students, families and staff, and LEQ will maintain accessible pathways for raising concerns.

We are committed to the regular training and educating our workers (including staff, volunteers, contractors, and leaders) on child and cultural safety.

We do not tolerate child abuse or harm, racism or discrimination. We will take the steps necessary in line with our policies, procedures, risk management practices and codes of conduct to ensure that we maintain child and culturally safe environments.

All workers (including staff, volunteers, contractors, and leaders) share responsibility for child safety and wellbeing, and are expected to uphold this commitment in their roles.