



## 2023 COACH & TEAM MANAGER BRIEFING

### What Are The Childsafe Standards?

Child safety in sport means **protecting children from abuse, providing safe, quality experiences and empowering children's voices.**

The Victorian Government's *Betrayal of Trust* report and the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* highlighted just how significant an issue child safety is within sport and that **action is required now.**

Derinya Basketball Club (DBC) is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. We support the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure a child safe environment is maintained at all times.

The new **Victorian Child Safety Standards (VCSS)** apply to sporting organisations that operate and provide sporting services to children within Victoria. There are several different requirements which make up the standards, and which sports will be required to comply with.

The standards relate to child protection within DBC, and include requirements to have practices, procedures and policies in place. DBC is continuously reviewing our compliance with the standards, as well as checking if our culture and environment is supportive and protective of children.

### **NEW VICTORIAN CHILD SAFE STANDARDS ARE IN PLACE (as of July 1, 2022)**

New Victorian Child Safe Standards have come into effect to better protect children and young people from abuse. From 1 July 2022, the Victorian Government has brought in eleven new Standards that replaced Victoria's original seven standards and principles.

Key changes include new requirements:

- To **involve families and communities** in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe
- For a **greater focus on safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children** and young people
- To manage the risk of **child abuse in online environments**



- For greater **clarity on the governance, systems and processes** to keep children and young people safe.

For context, the VCSS is designed to support greater national consistency, reflecting the **10 National Principles for a Child Safe Organisation** developed following the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*.

However please note the VCSS have some differences to the national standards.

**An overview of the VCSS is provided below:**

1. Organisations establish a **culturally safe environment** in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued
2. Child **safety and wellbeing is embedded** in organisational leadership, governance and culture
3. Children and young people are **empowered about their rights**, participate in decisions affecting them and **are taken seriously**
4. **Families and communities are informed**, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing
5. Equity is upheld and **diverse needs respected** in policy and practice
6. **People working with children** and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice
7. Processes for **complaints and concerns are child focused**
8. **Staff and volunteers** are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training
9. **Physical and online environments promote safety** and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed
10. Implementation of the **Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved**
11. **Policies and procedures document** how the organisation is safe for children and young people.



**The Standards apply to organisations as a whole, not only the areas that work with children. This includes:**

- Board of management / **Committee members**
- All paid staff (CEO, Executive, employees)
- All **volunteers** (**coaches, officials, administrators, scorers** etc)
- All **students** on placement
- Any **contractors** that are engaged.

DBC are committed to reviewing and continuously improving their culture, processes and practices against the VCSS, and make any changes that are required moving forward. This will be communicated to all teams, coaches, team managers, parents and players.

**Remember:**

- Child safety is **not an add-on or one-off exercise**.
- It is a **legal requirement** that DBC must be compliant with.
- Having **policies and procedures in place is not enough**.
- It's about **creating a culture and environment** within sport that is supportive and protective of children.