

Keeping Young People Safe - Our Commitment

All children and young people have a right to feel safe, and to be safe at all times.

AIEF is committed to the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#): to creating environments where the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is at the centre of our thoughts, values and actions. We are building an organisational culture where children and young people, families, communities and everyone who works with us feels safe and confident to have a say and raise any concerns.

We respect and value the rights of all children and young people, and support them to reach their full potential. We recognise that particular consideration needs to be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people whom we work with. We also acknowledge the particular needs of children and young people arising from their cultural and linguistic background, sexuality, gender diversity, disability, or as a result of domestic and family violence or other trauma.

Safeguarding children and young people is the responsibility of all AIEF team members, including the Board, Executive Committee, team members, contractors, students and volunteers across the whole organisation.

AIEF will:

- Drive a culture of child safety at all levels of the organisation.
- Take all allegations or disclosures of abuse or neglect seriously, respond appropriately, and report concerns to the relevant authorities. The safety of the child/young person will be our primary consideration.
- Empower children, young people, families and communities to participate in decisions which affect their lives.
- Value diversity and promote inclusive practices.
- Employ and engage only people who are suitable to work with children and young people and provide high quality supervision and support.
- Ensure children and young people who feel unsafe, or wish to raise a concern know who to talk with and feel comfortable to do so.
- Ensure our team members are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe.
- Embed the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations within our quality assurance practices.
- Undertake regular review of policy and procedures that document how our organisation is child safe.
- The above responsibilities are detailed within our Working With Vulnerable People Policy (which is available on request).

We can also provide information about AIEF's:

- Child Protection Reporting Procedure
- AIEF Ethics and Code of Conduct
- How We Work Policy
- Rules of Engagement with Students, Alumni and School Staff Policy
- Transporting Alumni Policy

- Stakeholder Feedback and Complaints Policy
- AIEF Programs Complaints Handling Procedure

Please contact us [here](#) for more information.

Listening to children and young people

We believe involving children, young people and their families as users of our services and as part of the community helps us ensure what we do is relevant to them. Involving children and young people is much more than just asking them for their ideas and views. It's about informing them of their rights, listening to them, taking them seriously and acting on their suggestions. It also encourages them to participate in decisions that affect their lives.

We welcome the voices of children and young people and their families in providing feedback about our services and the behaviour of our team members and volunteers. We value and welcome this feedback as it assists us to address issues and improve. We encourage children and young people to tell us if you are worried or unhappy; to help us to ensure your safety and the safety of your peers. You can contact us [here](#).