



Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Taldumande Youth Services is committed to the safety, wellbeing and welfare of all children and young people.

We want all children and young people to be safe, happy, and empowered. Taldumande Youth Services supports and respects every child, young person, staff member, and volunteer. We are dedicated to fostering a safe environment where participation and empowerment are encouraged. Children and young people are actively involved in decisions that affect them, and we provide accessible avenues for them and their families to raise concerns or complaints, ensuring these are taken seriously and addressed promptly.

At Taldumande Youth Services we have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.

We regard our child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance, and as such are committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and to maintain safe and supportive physical and online environments for all children and young people.

We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child or young person's safety, which we follow rigorously.

Our organisation is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early and removing and reducing these risks. We identify and address risks to child safety in all our environments, including physical spaces and online platforms.

Our organisation maintains rigorous human resources and recruitment procedures for all staff and volunteers.

Our organisations is committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child safety, including recognising and responding to abuse, reporting obligations, and maintaining safe environments.

Taldumande Youth Services support and respect all children and young people, as well as our staff and volunteers. This includes:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders
- people with disabilities
- people from non-English speaking backgrounds
- people from diverse ethnic, religious, culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, queer, or intersex people

Values and Principles

Taldumande Youth Services will agree to ensure the following values and principles will guide our commitment to the safety of all children and young people and form the basis for all protection policies and procedures within the organisation:

- All children and young people have the right to be safe.
- The welfare and best interests of the children and young people are paramount.
- The views of children, young people and their privacy must be respected.
- Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children and young people are established in Staff and Child Safe Code of Conduct and Child Safe policies.
- The safety of children and young people is dependent upon the existence of a safe culture.
- Children and young people's safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our organisation.
- Procedures are in place to screen all staff, volunteers, third party contractors and external stakeholders who have direct contact with children and young people.
- The safety and protection of children and young people is everyone's responsibility.
- Working with Children's Checks and relevant training are a requirement for all Board members, staff and volunteers.
- Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and are in place for all staff and volunteers across the organisation.

Continuous Review and Improvement

Taldumande Youth Services is committed to regularly reviewing and improving our child safe practices. We analyse complaints and incidents to identify causes and systemic issues, ensuring our approach to child safety evolves and strengthens over time.

National Principles



Taldumande Youth Services has adopted the following National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (Australian Human Rights Commission, 2018) and ensures that they are embedded in our organisation's policy frameworks.

- 1.** Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture.
- 2.** Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- 3.** Families and communities are informed and involved.
- 4.** Equity is promoted and diversity is respected.
- 5.** People working with children are suitable and supported.
- 6.** Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused.
- 7.** Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.
- 8.** Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur.
- 9.** Implementation of child safe standards is continuously reviewed and improved.
- 10.** Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.