



STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Lady Forster Kindergarten pays respect to the traditional owners of our land, the local Boonwurrung, and upholds indigenous principles of 'caring for the land and the bubups (children).'

Lady Forster Kindergarten is fully committed to the health, safety, well-being and empowerment of all our children, and the effective delivery of child safe practices.

Our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety applies to all who enter our kindergarten premises. This includes other children and young people; members of our Committee of Management and staff (permanent, temporary, casual); parents/carers, members of their extended family, friends, nannies and babysitters; volunteers/ students; contractors/inspectors; child specialists and support workers; presenters; guests of the kindergarten — each and every person who enters our gates.

At Lady Forster Kindergarten we believe that every child is entitled to be safe and feel safe so they can thrive and develop to their full potential. Underpinning this belief, we recognise our pivotal role in ensuring the safety of our children and in increasing the awareness of our kindergarten community and beyond to child safety.

CHILD SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY.

We protect all our children and are committed to the Child Safe Standards.

We have zero-tolerance of child abuse and are committed to providing a child-safe kindergarten environment where children are protected from abuse.

We are particularly vigilant regarding the safety of vulnerable children at our kindergarten.

We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, children/families who identify with the LGBTIQ+ community and to ensuring the safety of children with a disability.

We actively provide an environment of inclusion and respect the right of each child to the freedom of self-expression.

WE VALUE AND SUPPORT DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND EQUALITY AND DO NOT TOLERATE DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES. WE DEEPLY RESPECT EACH CHILD'S RIGHT TO MAKE DECISIONS AND CHOICES THAT INFLUENCE THEIR LEARNING AND WELL-BEING AND EACH CHILD'S RIGHT NOT ONLY TO SPEAK UP, BUT TO BE HEARD. CHILDREN ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY IF THEY RAISE CONCERNS IN RELATION TO THEIR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING.

Through our education programs and immersion in the natural world we empower our children and encourage participation.

We build children's:

- communication;
- problem-solving;
- leadership skills;
- resilience;
- cultural understanding
- respect; and
- understanding of their own well-being and the well-being of others.

WE SUPPORT CHILDREN'S ENGAGEMENT WITH THE NATURAL WORLD AND ALL THE POSITIVE BENEFITS THAT BEING IN NATURE BRINGS.

We will keenly foster a culture of openness and trust that supports our kindergarten community to discuss worries and concerns, and safely disclose any risk or perceived risk of harm to children. We will work with other organisations appropriately and lawfully where the safety and well-being of children is at risk. We are committed to working closely with families in the case of court orders or interventions.

More detailed information on the child safety framework implemented at Lady Forster Kindergarten is available in the kindergarten rooms and office. The information is also circulated widely to inform, equip and empower the kindergarten and wider community — *Child Safety is everyone's responsibility.*

WE WANT ALL THOSE INVOLVED WITH THE KINDERGARTEN TO FEEL INFORMED, EQUIPPED AND EMPOWERED SO OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY CAN THRIVE.