

# Policy No. 132 – Child Safe

## 1. POLICY STATEMENT

Council is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children.

Council supports and respects the rights of all children, and for children to feel and be safe, happy and empowered. Council has a zero tolerance to child abuse.

This Policy applies to Councillors, staff, contractors and volunteers engaged by Council.

## 2. POLICY

Council will focus on actions and activities designed to prevent child abuse within the Gannawarra Shire by:

1. Working towards an organisational culture of child safety, that balances respect for cultural differences and diversity.
2. Ensuring that all parties are aware of their responsibilities for identifying possible occasions for child abuse and for establishing controls and procedures for preventing such abuse and/or detecting such abuse when it occurs.
3. Providing guidance to councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors as to action that should be taken where they suspect any abuse within or outside of the organisation.
4. Providing a clear statement to councillors, employees, volunteers and contractors forbidding any such abuse.
5. Providing assurance that any and all suspected abuse will be reported and fully investigated.
6. Demonstrating leadership by promoting the participation and empowerment of children.

## 3. RELATED LEGISLATION

- *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*
- *Crimes Act 1958 (Vic)*
- *Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment Act 2015 (Vic)*

## 4. RELATED POLICIES/DOCUMENTS

- Police and Working with Children Check – Employee Policy No. 029
- Code of Conduct for Employees – Employee Policy No. 034

## 5. POLICY REVIEW

Council will review this policy as required but always within 2 years after a general election of the Council.

At the time it was developed, this policy was compliant with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

## 6. FURTHER INFORMATION

Members of the public may inspect all Council Policies at Gannawarra Shire Council's Kerang and Cohuna offices or online at [www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au](http://www.gannawarra.vic.gov.au).

Any enquiries in relation to this Policy should be directed to the Director, Community Wellbeing on (03) 5450 9333.

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