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**Project Overview**

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All children and young people who attend Council services, events, programs and community spaces have the right to feel and be safe. On 1 July 2022 the Victorian Government introduced [Eleven (11) new Child Safe Standards](https://engage.frankston.vic.gov.au/download_file/view/1379/820) and to reflect these changes we drafted a new Child Safe Policy to be in place by the end of 2022. We ran consultation activities between 17 October and 15 November 2022 to hear from the community about our approach to keeping children safe.

**Engagement purpose**

Council wanted to hear from children, young people, their parents/carers and the community about the Policy and approach to child safety and specifically wanted to understand:

* Whether our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety is clear?
* If the Policy is clear about who at Council is responsible for what, when it comes to keeping children and young people safe?
* If there is anything we haven’t included that will help keep children and young people safe?

**Engagement Report – Draft Child Safety Policy**

**Quick Engagement Stats**

* The Policy was viewed on Engage Frankston on 60 occasions by 39 unique visitors
* 3 submissions through Engage Frankston were received
* 15 (appox.) parents/carers were consulted at Council run Pop-Up Playgroup
* Youth Council met to discuss the Policy

**Summary of Outcomes**

**Changes to the Policy as a result of consultation**

* Policy re-titled – Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy (this is also in line with The Commission’s wording)
* Participation of children in addition to hearing children’s voices included in Statement of Commitment
* Promotion of a whole of community approach to keeping children safe included in Statement of Commitment
* Inclusion of regular status checking of Working with Children Checks
* “Contractors” now referred to as “agency staff”
* Inclusion of third party relationship’s in our assessment of risks to children
* Policy Review – 2 year review timeframe and authorisation for CEO to approve minor amendments
* A child/youth friendly version of the Policy will be developed in 2023 to ensure comprehension of the Policy by children and young people and others in the community.

**Community Consultation Process**

**Online engagement**

The Engage Frankston page was promoted at a range of Council programs and services including Libraries, children’s services, youth services and Council’s Disability and Inclusion Committee and through the connections of Council’s Reconciliation Project Manager.

**In person engagement**

Two Council staff attended Carrum Downs Pop-Up Playgroup and Youth Council Meeting.

**Stakeholder engagement**

Council staff were provided the opportunity to provide feedback and the opinions of the connections of Council’s Reconciliation Project Manager and Diversity and Inclusion Project Manager were sought on the language and strategies proposed for identified groups of children and young people.

**Recommendations & Next Steps**

Council endorsed the Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy on 12 December 2022. Council will continue implementing its Child Safety Action Plan and continue to review its approach to keeping children and young people safe.

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**Are you concerned about the safety of a child or young person?**



* **IF A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER CALL THE POLICE ON OOO (TRIPLE ZERO)**
* If your concern is related to Frankston City Council contact our Reportable Conduct Team at [childsafe@frankston.vic.gov.au](mailto:childsafe@frankston.vic.gov.au) or on 1300 322 322
* For any other concerns contact Frankston Police non-emergency line **03 9784 5555** and/or Child Protection South Division**1300 655 795** or**13 12 78** (after hours)