



BCH STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Date: 21 June 2022

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SAFETY AND WELLBEING

BCH recognises that children are at special risk of harm and that health organisations need to consider the physical, emotional and cultural safety of children in the provision of services to them and their families.

BCH is committed to providing an environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives and to disclose concerns they may have about their safety.

BCH is committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability and children who identify as LGBTQIA+.

These commitments are underpinned by the following practices;

- BCH takes a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety and is committed to identifying any risks to child safety early and removing/reducing any identified risks. This is guided by our Risk Management Framework, policies and procedures which are aligned to The Victorian Government Risk Management Framework (VGRMF).
- BCH fosters a culture of openness that supports and empowers all personnel and service users to feel comfortable and supported to talk about any concerns they might have about the safety of children and to safely disclose risks of harm to children.
- BCH values the input of children, families and carers into the planning and provision of services to children and empowers and takes proactive steps to enhance participation in decisions pertaining to their care and wellbeing.
- BCH has robust human resources and recruitment practices, as well as quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development systems, to ensure that our people individually and collectively are able to safeguard the wellbeing and safety of children. These practices include our Code of Conduct to which all staff, students and volunteers are held.
- We have zero tolerance of child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously. This includes ensuring that we fulfil our legal and moral obligations to contact the appropriate authorities when we suspect abuse, neglect or mistreatment of a child.

Our commitment is further described and implemented through our BCH [Child Safe Policy](#) and associated procedures.

Ballarat Community Health provides direct services including support, information and advocacy to clients in this area.

For more information contact Ballarat Community Health on (03) 5338 4500.