How child safety in your organisation aligns to the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

The Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS) has developed a tool to help organisations that have conducted the Children's Safety Survey see how your results align with the Australian National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. The methodology for this survey, now part of the ICPS Children and Young People's Safety survey, was originally developed to inform the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (2017). The National Principles reflect ten child safe standards recommended by the Royal Commission and cover not only child sexual abuse but also other forms of potential harm to children and young people.

National Principles

1. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
3. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
5. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
6. Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.
7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
9. Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

The grid in the pages below can help you think about how well you are implementing the National Principles and identify areas in governance and practice in your organisation that need to become more child safe. We have matched questions from the four measures in the Children's Safety Survey with principles that align very closely (red), and with principles aligned to some extent (pink).

We hope this tool can help your organisation become more child safe.

Most closely aligned with National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

Aligned to some extent with National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

	National Principles									
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
Survey question: Child informed organisational safety climate										
Adults in my organisation care about children and young people.	□		□		■					
Adults in my organisation value children's views and opinions.		■			□					
Children and young people have at least one adult in my organisation who they trust.		□			■		□			
In my organisation adults talk with children and young people about things that worry children and young people.		□					■			
Adults in my organisation know children and young people well enough to know if something isn't right.		□			■		□			
Children and young people in my organisation are more likely to rely on their friends than adults if they are worried about something. [*reverse scored question*]					■	□				
In my organisation adults pay attention when children and young people raise a concern or worry.					□	□	■			
I feel safe in my organisation.	■	□			□		□			
Survey question: Sense of safety										
How likely is it that: A child or young person in your organisation would be in a situation like this?								■		
How likely is it that: You'd feel worried if you were in a situation like this?								■		
How likely is it that: You would talk to someone if this happened to you?		□				■				
If you were in a situation like this, would you tell someone?		□				■				
If you were in a situation like this and were going to tell someone, who would it most likely be? You can choose as many or as few people as you like.		■			□	□	□			

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	National Principles									
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
If you were in a situation like this, what do you think you would need most? You can choose up to 3.		●			○	○	○			○
Survey question: Confidence in adults										
I would know what to do because we've talked about it in my organisation.		○			○		●			
Adults in my organisation would notice if another adult was doing the wrong thing.					●		○			
Adults in my organisation would only know if a child or young person was unsafe if they told them.					●		○			
I have an adult in my organisation I trust that I would talk to.		○			●		○			
Adults in my organisation would probably not believe me. [*reverse scored question*]		○			●		○			
Adults in my organisation would see it as their job to do something about a situation like this.		○			○	○	●			○
Adults in my organisation would know what to say to me if I told them I was unsafe.		○				●	○			
Adults in my organisation would know what to do if I told them I was unsafe.		○				●	○			
Adults in my organisation would ask me what I would like to have happen, instead of dealing with it without me.		○				●				
Survey question: Barriers to help seeking										
I would feel uncomfortable talking to an adult in my organisation about things like this.		○			○	●	○			
Adults in my organisation don't really care about young people in such situations so I wouldn't ask.					●	○				
Adults in my organisation are too busy to deal with things like this.	●					○	○			
I would be worried that things would get worse if I told an adult in my organisation.						●				○

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	National Principles									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Adults in my organisation wouldn't know what to do in situations like this.					🟥		🟥			
I would deal with this type of thing by myself.					🟥	🟥	🟥			
I don't feel confident that adults in my organisation would fix a situation like this.					🟥	🟥	🟥			

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