



Child Safety Program Review

Community Update May 2024

Background

The College implemented the new Child Safe Standards as outlined under Ministerial Order 1359: *Implementing the Child Safe Standards – Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises* in July 2022. There have been regular post-implementation reviews since then, and in March 2023 the College submitted its application for CRICOS reapproval. A significant portion of this submission related to the Child Safe standards, and this enabled the College to expedite various initiatives planned for 2023.

Program Review Elements

This Program Review takes a top-down approach:

- evaluate the risk register, where the risks are aligned to the standards outlined in MO1359
- consolidate remaining actions from the October 2023 Post Implementation Review
- review the existing Child Safety Quick Guide and other materials available to staff.

Findings

1. Risk Register

The risk register reflecting the new standards was formally established in November 2022 and the first review was approved by the Principal in March 2023. There are regular risk reviews with the Deputy Principal Student Wellbeing and the Wellbeing Directors. While the process has been satisfactory, there is an opportunity to broaden the consultation process through a periodic review with year level and learning area teams.

2. Post-Implementation Reviews

Initiatives to be completed include:

- Expand the current internal Code of Conduct form for new staff to include an annual declaration by all staff
- More targeted engagement with students through the Student Representative Council and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to continue to increase focus in the areas of cultural safety, empowerment and student friendly complaints processes
- Line of sight assessment for the new SMC building will be considered prior to the return of students.

3. Staff

The Child Safety Quick Guide has been available to all staff since June 2022. There is now a dedicated Child Safety noticeboard in the Staff Social area, and some key information in Providence Centre. Similar information was also available at St Mary's campus and consideration will be given to a Child Safety noticeboard during the fit out stage later in 2024.

4. Students

Child safety and wellbeing remain key considerations in all curricula and extra-curricula activities. At the start of 2024 an enhanced SEQTA portal was launched for students to make key information more accessible. This includes options for counselling and /or support self-referral, reminders of what to do if immediate support is required and what to do if support is required while they are not at school.

5. Families

Operoo continues to be the main communication channel for updates and reminders to families.

6. Contractors

The contractor induction has been strengthened to ensure all contractors are aware of their responsibilities and obligations while performing work at the College.

7. Volunteers

The volunteer induction has been strengthened to ensure all contractors are aware of their responsibilities and obligations while performing work at the College.

8. Visitors

All visitors are asked to read and agree to abide by the Child Safety Code of Conduct on arrival.

9. Website

Information on the website is maintained in line with changes to policies and supporting documents. There is an opportunity to enhance Child Safety information for International Students.

Recommendations

1. Broaden risk register reviews to include Learning Areas and Year Level teams.
2. Ensure relevant Child Safety information is included when the International section on the website is reviewed and updated.
3. Ensure Child Safety is a standing agenda item for regular meetings including Leadership, Deputy Principals, Management, Year Levels and Learning Areas.
4. Place Child Safety and Wellbeing @ MacKillop poster in all classrooms and student facing areas.
5. Review of position descriptions to ensure Child Safety related information is consistent and current.
6. Review options for the effective yard duty supervision of students at the refurbished St Mary's campus prior to the return of students in 2025.