

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

CLAREMONT COLLEGE 2018



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STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

Claremont College has developed the following 'Statement of Commitment to Child Safety' as an overarching statement that provides key elements of our approach to protecting and safe-guarding children and young people from abuse and sets the tone for the College's entire Child Protection Program.

It is designed to be Claremont College's public statement of commitment to child safety and a demonstration of the College's leaders' commitment to champion child safety in our College.

The Claremont College 'Statement of Commitment to Child Safety' has been approved and endorsed by the College School Council and is reviewed by the Council at least annually.

The Statement is published on our public website as well as communicated through other mediums such as newsletters, our annual report and in induction and welcome packs for School Council members, staff members, Direct Contact Volunteers and Direct Contact Contractors.

A PDF version of Claremont College's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety is available [here](#).

CLAREMONT COLLEGE'S STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY OBJECTIVES

This Statement provides the framework for:

- the development of work systems, practices, policies and procedures that promote child protection, safety and wellbeing within the College;
- the creation of a safe and supportive College environment and a positive and robust child protection culture;
- the promotion and open discussion of child protection issues within the College; and
- complying with all laws, regulations and standards relevant to child protection in NSW.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Claremont College is committed to providing education and care to children and young people to assist them to develop into high-achieving, supported students, positively connected to each other and to the communities in which they live and which they will serve.

The College is committed to ensuring the safety, welfare and wellbeing of all children and young people at the school and is dedicated to protecting them from abuse and harm.

At Claremont College, we have a zero tolerance for child abuse. The College regards its child protection responsibilities with the utmost importance, and as such is committed to providing the necessary resources to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations and to maintain safe and supportive College physical and online environments for all children and young people.

CHILD SAFE VALUES & PRINCIPLES

The following child safe principles guide the College commitment to child safety and form the basis for all child protection policies and procedures at the College.

1. All children have the right to be safe.
2. The welfare and best interests of the child are paramount.
3. The views of the child and their privacy must be respected.
4. Clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children are established in Staff Code of Conduct policies.
5. The safety of children is dependent upon the existence of a child safe culture.
6. Child safety awareness is promoted and openly discussed within our school community.
7. Procedures are in place to screen all staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers who have direct contact with children.
8. Child safety and protection is everyone's responsibility.
9. Child protection training is mandatory for all Council members, staff members and Direct Contact Volunteers.
10. Procedures for responding to alleged or suspected incidents of child abuse and harm are simple and accessible for all members of the College community.
11. Procedures are in place to ensure all College premises are designed to ensure the safety of children.

ELEMENTS OF A CHILD SAFE INSTITUTION

Claremont College has adopted the following ten elements that are considered to be fundamental to a child safe organisation. These elements are embedded in Claremont College's policy framework.

1. Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
3. Families and communities are informed and involved.
4. Equity is promoted and diversity is respected.
5. People working with children are suitable and supported.
6. Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused.
7. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.
8. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur.
9. Implementation of child safe standards is continuously reviewed and improved.
10. Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICERS

As part of our commitment to child safety and protection, Claremont College has appointed a number of **Child Protection Officers** as honest, mature, ethical and experienced members of the College community who can deal with sensitive issues relating to child protection and safety.

Our Child Protection Officers are available to answer any questions that you may have with respect to our Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and the Child Protection Program.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The College acknowledges that child protection is everyone's responsibility.

At Claremont College all members of the School Council, staff members, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children. Specific responsibilities for each group of the College community are further explained in the **Who is Responsible for Child Protection** section of our Child Protection Program.

REPORTING CHILD PROTECTION CONCERNS

Our Child Protection Program provides detailed guidance for all members of the College community as to how to identify key risk indicators of child abuse and how to report child abuse concerns to one of our College's nominated Child Protection Officers. It also contains detailed procedures with respect to the reporting of child abuse incidents to relevant external authorities.

Staff, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors, External Education Providers, students, parents/carers or other community members who have concerns that a child may be subject to abuse are asked to contact one of the College's Child Protection Officers.

Communications will be treated confidentially on a 'need to know basis'.

Whenever there are concerns that a child is in immediate danger the Police should be called on 000.

- **Related Policies and Procedures**
- **Risk Management Program**
- **Compliance Program**
- **Human Resources Program**
- **Student Duty of Care Program**
- **Workplace Health & Safety Program**
- **Child Protection Training**
- **Recruitment & Selection Procedures**
- **Induction Procedures**
- **Program Compliance and Review**

Claremont College is committed to the continuous improvement of our Child Protection Program and to ensuring the College's compliance with NSW child protection law and regulation.

The Program is regularly reviewed for overall effectiveness and to ensure compliance with all child protection related laws, regulations and standards. For more information, refer to the **Continuous Review & Improvement** section of our Child Protection Program.



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30 Coogee Bay Road, Randwick NSW 2031

T (02) 9399 3217 **E** office@claremont.nsw.edu.au

www.claremont.nsw.edu.au

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www.sasc.nsw.edu.au

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