



## Section 1: Organisational framework

### Policy 1.1 - Safeguarding Children and Young People from Abuse and Neglect

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#### POLICY STATEMENT

EdConnect recognises that all children and young people have the right to develop and reach their potential in a caring, nurturing and safe environment.

EdConnect Australia is committed to safeguarding children and young people who engage with an EdConnect volunteer from any form of abuse including sexual, physical, emotional, psychological and neglect.

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#### 1. Purpose

This Policy outlines EdConnect's commitment to safeguarding children and young people from abuse and neglect. The Policy and associated Procedure describe the roles and responsibilities of EdConnect staff and volunteers and includes management strategies that promote child safe environments across programs and activities.

#### 2. Scope and Delegation

The Policy and associated procedure applies to all staff, volunteers and supporters of EdConnect.

The Chief Executive Officer is the delegated authority responsible for administering this Policy.

#### 3. Definitions

**Child abuse** means all forms of physical abuse, emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse and exploitation (including grooming behaviour), neglect or negligent treatment, commercial (e.g. for financial gain) or other exploitation of a child and includes any actions that results in actual or potential harm to a child.

**Child protection** means any responsibility, measure or activity undertaken to safeguard children from harm.

**Supporters** - include sponsors, donors, corporate and community partners who engage with EdConnect's programs and activities which involve children.

#### 4. Principles

Principles governing this Policy are that:

- The safety of children and young people is of the greatest importance to EdConnect.
- Any form of abuse is unacceptable and children and young people will be protected.



- Any incidents of suspected abuse will be promptly and appropriately investigated by EdConnect.
- EdConnect staff will identify, assess and control the likelihood of children and young people being at risk of abuse and harm in all areas of operation by adopting a risk management approach.
- EdConnect will work closely with schools and other agencies to ensure that there is a consistent approach to providing a safe environment for children and young people.
- EdConnect will adhere to relevant state and territory government policies and standards in relation to prevention, identification and reporting of child abuse.

## 5. Procedure

Procedure (1.1a) outlines how EdConnect will implement this Policy and covers the areas

- staff and volunteer code of conduct;
- the roles and responsibilities of Board, CEO, staff, volunteers, and supporters;
- communicating with staff and volunteers;
- recruitment, screening and training of staff and volunteers;
- managing child safety concerns and complaints;
- managing the relationship with the child and family;
- marketing, publicity and fundraising events;
- working with other agencies.

## 6. Related Policies and Procedures

| Policy Number | Policy Name   |
|---------------|---|
| 4.2           | Staff Recruitment and Selection Policy  |
| 4.7           | Staff Code of Conduct Policy  |
| 5.1           | Volunteer Recruitment Policy  |
| 5.2           | Volunteer Security Check Policy   |
| 5.3           | Volunteer Training and development Policy   |
| 5.5           | Volunteer Code of Conduct Policy  |
| 5.10          | Volunteer Termination Policy  |
|               | EdConnect Volunteer Handbook  |
|               | EdConnect Volunteer Training Modules 1, 2 & Refresher Training–<br>section Disclosure |
|               | Relevant state and territories government policies related to Child<br>Protection     |
|               | National principles for child safe organisations                                      |
|               |   |

## 7. Legislative Base

Relevant child protection legislation in each state and territory.

*Children and Community Services Act 2004* (WA)

*Children, Youth and Families Act 2005* (Vic.)

*Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (NSW)



## 8. Monitoring & Review of Policy


Every two years and following every reportable incident, a review shall be conducted to assess whether the organisation's child protection policies or procedures require modification to better protect the children participating in the organisation's program.

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| Version 2<br>Date Created: 25/3/2013<br>Date of Review: 2013<br>Date Reviewed 1.6.2020; June 2022<br>Date for next Review: 2024 |
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### Reviewed/Endorsed by the Board of Directors

Meeting Date: 20/7/2022  
(circular resolution)

Name: Elena Mogilevski

Signed:   
Chair, Board of Directors