

OUR COMMITMENT

We consider the safety and wellbeing of children and young people to be of the utmost importance.

We ask parents and guardians to:

- Ensure your children have adequate supervision at all times when you visit a YMCA centre/service.
- Ensure that your behaviour contributes to our child safe environment.
- Tell us if you see something inappropriate.

YMCA Victoria will:

- Always act in accordance with our YMCA values of honesty, respect, caring and responsibility.
- Report and respond to any concern we have about the safety of children or young people.
- Ensure all YMCA staff and volunteers complete appropriate safeguarding children and young people training and understand their responsibilities to act in the best interests of children and young people.
- Ensure all YMCA personnel have completed a National Criminal History Records check and have a valid Working with Children check.



Babysitting & Private Coaching Services

The YMCA does not provide private services (e.g. babysitting). We take all reasonable steps to keep your children safe while they are at the YMCA, and we take this responsibly very seriously. However, any private arrangement is outside of our control, and we cannot ensure the safety of your children if you choose to enter into a private arrangement with our volunteers or employees.

As a child safe organisation, we support any member of the community to report any suspected child abuse directly to the Police or the Department of Human Services.

A report to the local Police Station

may be made if you are concerned about any general form of suspected abuse, threat or harm to the health and safety of children and young people.



A report to Department of Human Services (DHS)

may be made in circumstances that occur within a family or home environment involving suspected physical or emotional abuse, disclosure of abuse or persistent neglect and/or family violence.

Contact DHS on (03) 9096 0000

After hours, call 13 12 78

In an emergency contact the Police on '000'.

If you have concerns regarding the safety of children, young people, or any other patron, report that concern to the YMCA Manager on duty so we can ensure their well-being.

Supporting a community approach to keeping children and young people safe.

There are many ways to ensure children in our community are safe and happy. At the Y, we work across the community with partners and specialist organisations to support the safety of children and young people.

If you or someone you know would benefit from further information, the following organisations may also help:

Beyond Blue	1300 22 46 36
Kids HelpLine	1800 55 1800
Parent Line	1300 30 1300
Lifeline	13 11 14
Family Violence & Sexual Assault Line	1800 737 732



Visit victoria.ymca.org.au/safeguarding-children for more information about the safety of your children at the Y.



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

At YMCA Victoria, we employ the best people to supervise and care for children and young people in all our programs and services.

We strive to always act in the best interests of children and young people and take all reasonable steps to ensure their safety.

In particular, we are committed to providing an environment where all children and young people are protected from any form of abuse or mistreatment.

YMCA Victoria is committed to safeguarding children and young people. We have a variety of practices in place to ensure that children are safe at the Y.

Our Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework

- Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedure
- Incident Reporting and Management Framework
- Health, Safety and Environment Focus
- Staff Code of Conduct



Our Recruitment Practices

Our employees and volunteers are our most valuable asset when it comes to keeping your children safe. We require all employees and volunteers to undergo an extensive screening process prior to appointment. Successful applicants must comply with the YMCA's Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework.

Our recruitment and induction process involves:

- ✓ A thorough recruitment screening, requiring:
 - A minimum of two reference checks;
 - A National Criminal History Records Check;
 - A Working with Children Check.
- ✓ Thorough induction and training process.
- ✓ Accredited ACF child protection training program.

**A message from
YMCA VICTORIA CEO**



Everyday our staff and volunteers are entrusted with the care of thousands of children and young people and it's imperative we ensure their safety at all times. We know that children who are safe, are free to grow up happy and healthy; and we take our role in providing a safe environment for each and every child we care for very seriously.

At YMCA Victoria we strive to be a great child safe organisation and we know that being great is about more than having the right policies and procedures in place. It's about having a culture of safety that extends from recruitment and induction to training and reporting and also to working with the right organisations like the Australian Childhood Foundation to ensure we're doing it right.

We have a strong commitment to keeping children and young people safe and in the best environment for their health and wellbeing.

Peter Burns
YMCA Victoria Chief Executive

