

# EDPC Child Safe Statement of Commitment

The Essendon Day Procedure Centre (EDPC) is committed to maintaining child safety and protecting children from abuse through all aspects of our care, service and interaction with patients under the age of 18 years.

**We believe protecting children from abuse and harm is everybody's business.**

The EDPC has a zero tolerance to child abuse and is committed to acting in children's best interests and keeping them safe.

New and existing staff are made aware of and understand the importance of child safety. The EDPC will involve families and communities in efforts to keep children and young people safe. The EDPC empowers and encourages a child's participation in decisions affecting them. The EDPC encourages a culturally sensitive environment where a child's identity is respected and valued. The EDPC ensures a child has access to information, support and complaints process in ways that are culturally safe, accessible, and easy to understand.

The staff, doctors and consultants undergo rigorous selection and credentialing processes which include

- a current Working with Children Check,
- reference and qualification checks are made prior to employment or approval of clinical privileges
- registration for healthcare professionals are with AHPRA. This registration is checked annually.
- Visiting medical officers and staff are trained to identify children at risk of abuse.
- From time to time internal and external audits and questionnaires will assess EDPC personnel's training needs in relation to child safety.

The EDPC has developed policies and procedures to ensure a supportive environment for children, personnel or families who report allegations of abuse or child safety concerns.

Take the time to read **what's new** in Child Safe Standards 2022

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Whats-new-overview-of-the-new-Child-Safe-Standards.pdf>

Further information on child safety can be found in many languages at the Department of Health and Human Services website <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/news/new-child-safe-standards-start-in-victoria-on-1-july-2022-to-better-protect-children>

**All healthcare professionals sign the EDPC Child Safety Code of Conduct**

## EDPC Code of Conduct

### I WILL:

- Treat all children and young people with respect
- Listen to and value children and young people's ideas and opinions
- Welcome all children and their families and carers by being inclusive
- Actively promote cultural safety and inclusion
- Listen to children and respond to them appropriately
- Welcome parents and carers to participate in decisions about their child's training schedule and any other matters about their safety
- Report any conflicts of interest (such as an outside relationship with a child)
- Adhere to all relevant Australian and Victorian legislation and our child safe policies and procedures
- Work within a team to ensure that the needs of the child (and their family) remain the paramount focus
- Participate in all compulsory training
- Raise concerns with management if risks to child safety are identified, including cultural, environmental and operational risks
- Report and act on any concerns or observed breaches of this Code of Conduct
- Take all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse and take a child seriously if they disclose harm or abuse
- Respect the privacy of children and their families by keeping all information about child protection concerns confidential
- Ensure breaches of this Code are reported immediately Uphold the rights of the child and always prioritise their needs

### I WILL NOT:

- Condone or participate in illegal, unsafe or abusive behaviour towards children, including physical, sexual or psychological abuse, ill-treatment, neglect or grooming Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse
- Exaggerate or trivialise child abuse issues
- Use hurtful, discriminatory, or offensive behaviour or language with children
- Fail to report information to police if I know a child has been abused or is at risk of harm
- Engage in unwarranted and inappropriate touching involving a child
- Persistently criticise and/or denigrate a child
- Verbally assault a child or create a climate of fear
- Offer children and young people alcohol, cigarettes, or other drugs
- Show children pornographic images
- Encourage a child to communicate with me in a private setting
- Share details of sexual experiences with a child or use sexual language or gestures in the presence of children

**I UNDERSTAND** the following types of behaviour may be of concern: Being alone with a child when there is no professional reason for doing so: Babysitting, mentoring and/or tutoring a child out of work hours (without managerial approval for this kind of secondary employment. I understand staff if I breach the Code of Conduct may be subject to disciplinary action. This can include increased supervision, appointment to an alternative role, suspension or termination from the organisation.

**Signature I have read this Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it and its terms.**

Name:

Signature:

Date: