

## CHILD SAFETY

### Statement of commitment to child safety.

*Cobram and District Specialist School (CDSS) is committed to safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.*

*CDSS has zero tolerance for child abuse.*

*CDSS is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Every student at our school has an intellectual disability and most endure co-morbidity. This is an added layer of vulnerability. Particular attention will also be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.*

*Every person involved in CDSS has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.*

In the planning, decision-making and operations CDSS. will

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety.
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives.
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children.
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount.
5. Provide guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children.
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development.
7. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues.
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities.
9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk.
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.