



Child Safe Standards update

An update from the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian and the NSW Regulatory Authority on the Child Safe Standards

Key points:

- Under the Child Safe Scheme, certain child-related organisations, including early childhood education and outside school hours care services, are required to implement the Child Safe Standards.
- There is harmony between the Child Safe Standards and the National Quality Framework. While children's safety is a key priority for both frameworks, the Child Safe Standards focus on preventing and responding to risks of harm to children.
- The NSW Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG), as the regulatory authority of the Child Safe Standards, will support services in building capability to implement the Child Safe Standards as part of their compliance and monitoring approach.
- Enforcement measures relating to the Child Safe Standards under the Children's Guardian Act commenced from 1 February 2023. More information about OCG's approach to compliance and enforcement can be found [here on the OCG website](#).
- The OCG have developed an online Child Safe Self-Assessment, which enables services to check their own performance against the Child Safe Standards. This is a free resource available on the [OCG website here](#).
- The NSW Regulatory Authority will work closely with the OCG to ensure services have access to relevant and timely resources to support the implementation of the Child Safe Standards.

Where can I find more information?

More information on training and resources can be found at the [NSW Office of the Children's Guardian website](#), and questions or training requests related to the Child Safe Standards can be emailed to childsaf@ocg.nsw.gov.au.

What are the Child Safe Standards and what do they mean for me?

The [Child Safe Scheme](#) commenced in NSW in February 2022. This Scheme requires services to implement the Child Safe Standards recommended by the [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse](#), to better prevent and respond to child abuse.

The [Child Safe Standards](#) provide a framework for enhancing the safety of children in services. They consist of 10 Standards designed to drive cultural change in improving and maintaining child safe practices.

Services are required to align their practice with the requirements of the Child Safe Standards and use the Standards through their systems, policies and processes. It encourages ongoing improvement rather than occasional leaps in progress.

How will compliance with the Child Safe Standards be monitored from 2023?

The Children's Guardian Act provides for enforcement measures commenced from **1 February 2023**. The Children's Guardian Act is overseen by the OCG.

The OCG's [compliance approach](#) will focus on building capability within services to implement the Child Safe Standards. The OCG will also lead targeted capability campaigns for high-risk areas to ensure compliance with the Standards.

The NSW Regulatory Authority will work closely with OCG to support with raising awareness and building capability of services to implement the Child Safe Standards.





What resources are available to support my service in implementing the Child Safe Standards?

Guides to implementing the Child Safe Standards

The NSW Regulatory Authority, in partnership with the OCG, has published a [guide to assist services with implementing the Child Safe Standards](#). The OCG has also released a [Guide to the Child Safe Standards](#) to help all people working with children understand how to make their organisation safer.

Online Child Safe Self-Assessment Tool

The OCG has developed an online Child Safe Self-Assessment tool, providing a free resource for leaders of child-related organisations, including providers of early childhood education and outside school hours care services, to assess how they are going with implementing the Child Safe Standards. The Child Safe Self-Assessment is available on the [OCG website here](#).

The Child Safe Self-Assessment is user-friendly, engaging, and interactive, taking an educative approach towards building capability of services to be safer for children.

Following completion of the Child Safe Self-Assessment, services are provided with feedback about how they are going with implementing the Child Safe Standards, and practical actions to continue their child safe journey.

Completing the Child Safe Self-Assessment will build service's confidence to implement the Child Safe Standards and help services put the best interests of children at the forefront of their policies and practices.

Contact a Child Safe Officer

The OCG now have dedicated Child Safe Officers providing support to early childhood education and outside school hours care services. You can contact them directly by emailing childsafe@ocg.nsw.gov.au.

Upcoming resources

The NSW Regulatory Authority and OCG are working collaboratively and in consultation with the sector to develop tailored training and resources that will assist services to embed the Child Safe Standards.

Throughout the year, there will be more webinars and face-to-face sessions, including in regional areas, as well as a variety of other resources and online training.

Other child safety resources

You can visit the [OCG's website](#) for more information or resources on the Child Safe Standards.

You can visit the [NSW Department of Education's child safety webpages](#) for more information on your obligations under the different areas of child safety.