

CHILD SAFETY DEFINITIONS:

Child - Child means a child or young person who is under the age of 18 years.

Child Safety – Child safety includes matters related to protecting all children from child abuse, managing the risk of child abuse, providing support to a child at risk of child abuse, and responding to suspicions, incidents, disclosures or allegations of child abuse.

Child Abuse - Child abuse includes:

- a) any act committed against a child involving:
 - 1. a sexual offence
 - 2. grooming offences under section 49M(1) of the Crimes Act 1958
- b) the infliction, on a child, of:
 - 1. physical violence
 - 2. serious emotional or psychological harm
- c) the serious neglect of a child including exposure to family violence and its effects

Child Abuse (emotional) - Emotional child abuse occurs when a child is repeatedly rejected, isolated, or frightened by threats. It also includes hostility, derogatory name-calling and put-downs, and persistent coldness from a person to the extent that the child suffers, or is likely to suffer, emotional or psychological harm to their physical or developmental health.

Child Abuse (Physical) - Physical child abuse is any non-accidental infliction of physical violence on a child by any person. It can be inflicted in many ways, including beating, shaking or burning and assault with implements and female genital mutilation.

Child Abuse (Sexual) - Child sexual abuse is when a person uses power or authority over a child to involve them in sexual activity. It can include a wide range of sexual activity. Sexual offences are governed by the Crimes Act 1958 (Vic.)

Child-connected work – Child-connected work means:

- a) work authorised by the school governing authority and performed by an adult in a school environment while children are present or reasonably expected to be present
- b) for the purposes of a school boarding premises, work authorised by the provider of school boarding premises in a school boarding premises environment while children are present or reasonably expected to be present.

Note: Working with Children clearance is required by law only for people who engage in child-related work. Schools and school boarding premises may also choose to require suitability checks (including Working with Children clearance) for visitors and volunteers engaging in child-connected work.

Child-related work – has the same meaning as in the **Worker Screening Act 2020**, e.g. a contract of employment involving working with children; member of School Council, practical training undertaken in a school and volunteer work.

School Environment/School boarding environment – School environment means any of the following physical, online or virtual places, used during or outside school hours:

- a) A campus of the school
- b) Online or virtual school environments made available or authorised by the school governing authority for use by a child or student (including email, intranet systems, software applications and online services)
- c) Other locations provided by the school or through a third-party provider for a child or student to use including, but not limited to, locations used for:
 - 1. camps
 - 2. approved homestay accommodation
 - 3. delivery of education and training such as registered training organisations, TAFEs, non-school senior secondary providers or another school; or sporting events, excursions, competitions or other events.

School boarding premises governing authority means:

- 1. a) the provider of school boarding services;
- 2. b) the governing body for a school boarding premises (however described) as authorised by the provider of school boarding services or the ETR Act.

School Staff – school staff means:

An individual working in a school environment who is:

- 1. employed under Part 2.3 or Part 2.4 of the ETR Act in the Government teaching service

2. a contracted service provider (whether or not a body corporate or any other person is an intermediary) engaged by the school governing authority to perform child-related work.

School boarding premises staff means:

In a Government school boarding premises, an individual working in a school boarding premises environment who is:

1. (i) employed by the school boarding premises governing authority; or
2. (ii) a contracted service provider (whether or not a body corporate or any other person is an intermediary) engaged by the school boarding premises governing authority to perform child-related work.
3. of religion, a religious leader or an employee or officer of a religious body associated with the school.

School Governing authority/School Council – School governing authority means:

- a) the proprietor of a school, including a person authorised to act for or on behalf of the proprietor
- b) the governing body for a school as authorised by the proprietor of a school or the ETR Act
- c) the Principal, as authorised by the proprietor of a school, the school governing body, or the ETR Act.

Student – Student means a person who is enrolled at or attends the school or a student at the school boarding premises.

Volunteer - Volunteer means a person who performs work without remuneration or reward for the school or school boarding premises in the school environment or school boarding premises environment.