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| Quarterly Bulletin Child Safe Standards |
| Human Services RegulatorOFFICIAL |
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Introduction

Welcome to the Child Safe Standards (the Standards) quarterly bulletin for June 2022.

What’s new?

On 1 July 2022, Victoria’s new Child Safe Standards will commence. This means all organisations that provide services to children, and their families are required to be compliant with the new Child Safe Standards.

There are also a range of new and informative guides, tools, and templates published by the Commission for Children and Young People to support organisations with their transition to the new Child Safe Standards.

The resources provide detailed information and guidance relating to each of the 11 new Standards, links to useful resources, and information about what will be looked for when an organisation’s compliance with the new Child Safe Standards is assessed.

Click here to access the new resources: <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/news/new-child-safe-standards-resources-for-organisations/>

The new Standards will also be supported by an enhanced regulatory framework. The Child Wellbeing and Safety (Child Safe Standards Compliance and Enforcement) Amendment Act 2021 will take effect on 1 January 2023. This will mean, among other changes, that there will be identified sector regulators with more powers to monitor and enforce compliance with the Standards.

Spotlight: what do the new Standards mean for my organisation?

With the new Standards commencing, organisations must have taken all necessary actions, including updating any policies, procedures, and practices, to be compliant by 1 July 2022.

The work organisations have already done to comply with the existing Standards will help them to meet the new Standards. However, in some areas, organisations will need to change or develop their current child safety policies, practices, and culture to comply with the new Standards.

Organisations are encouraged to explore the resources developed to support implementation of the new Standards located on the Commission for Children and Young People’s website.

The Human Services Regulator will continue to be the relevant authority for department funded services in scope of the Standards until 31 December 2022. Our focus will be on supporting organisations to comply with the Standards, using a graduated and risk-based regulatory approach.

Post 31 December 2022, the regulator of the new Standards for department funded services will either be the Human Services Regulator or the soon to be established Social Services Regulator. Confirmation of arrangements post 31 December 2022 will be provided in the coming months.

You will find more about the Human Services Regulator on their website including regulatory compliance approach for the Standards.

Important documents include:

* DFFH Child Safe Standards Oversight Framework 2022 – 2023

<<https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards-oversight-framework-2021-2023-word>>

* Human Services Regulator regulatory strategy

<<https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/human-services-regulator-regulatory-strategy-accessible-word>>

* Human Services Regulator compliance and enforcement policy

<https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/human-services-regulator-compliance-and-enforcement-policy-word>

eLearning Modules on child safety

The Commonwealth Government with its National Principles for Child Safe Organisations also has resources available that can support implementation of the new Standards. These include eLearning modules for no cost. Refer to the links below:

<<https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/>>

<https://childsafety.pmc.gov.au/resources>

For more information

For more information about the Standards refer to the department's [Resources for Child Safe Standards page](https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/resources-child-safe-standards) <https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/resources-child-safe-standards>.

If your organisation requires further assistance to comply with the Standard or you have feedback about content for future bulletins, please contact the Child Safeguarding team on 1300 310 778 or email Child Safe Orgs <childsafeorgs@dffh.vic.gov.au>.

What do you think?

We welcome your feedback. If there is anything you would like information about in our next bulletin, please email your comments and suggestions to Child Safe Orgs <childsafeorgs@dffh.vic.gov.au>.

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