



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

National Principles for Child
Safe Organisations

Children's Week Symposium

Monday, 21 October 2024

A Safer
WA for
Children

This initiative is part of the WA Government's action to create a Safer WA for Children by implementing the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Order of proceedings

Event commencement

Welcome to Country

Opening address by Minister Winton

Housekeeping

Keynote speaker: Matt Gardiner, CEO, 54 reasons & Amanda Hunt, State Director, 54 Reasons

Keynote speaker: Kate Inglis-Hodge, Board Member, Nature Play

Keynote speaker: Kay Lane, Equity Projects Coordinator, Edith Cowan University and lived experience advocate

Short break

Panel and Q&A

Event conclusion

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Master of Ceremonies

Mike Rowe

Director General, Department of Communities

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The background features a rich, reddish-brown soil texture. Overlaid on this are several large, semi-transparent, concentric circles that create a ripple effect. Two horizontal dotted white lines are positioned above and below the central text.

Welcome to Country

Sandra Harben



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Opening address

Hon Sabine Winton BA BPS MLA

Minister for Early Childhood Education; Child
Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic
Violence; Community Services

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Housekeeping

- Mobile phone on silent
- Toilets
- Emergency procedures
- Counselling support available
- Live streaming for online participants

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Self-care

- Your wellbeing is important.
- The conversations today may elicit strong feelings and questions for some attendees.
- Please speak with someone in your support network or contact a relevant service, which could include your GP/private counsellor

Lifeline - 13 11 14

Beyond Blue - 1300 22 4636

1800 Respect - 1800 737 732

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Matt Gardiner, CEO

Amanda Hunt, State Director

54 Reasons

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians on whose land we live and work; honouring their continued connection to land, sea, skies and water.

We pay respects to Elders and Ancestors of Country and celebrate their role in passing down sacred cultural, spiritual and educational practices.

We also acknowledge the strength and commitment of First Nations practitioners that work alongside children and young people to support and guide leaders of the future.

Who are we?

There are 54 articles in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

That's 54 reasons for us and for children in Australia, every day!



SCAN ME

54 reasons

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



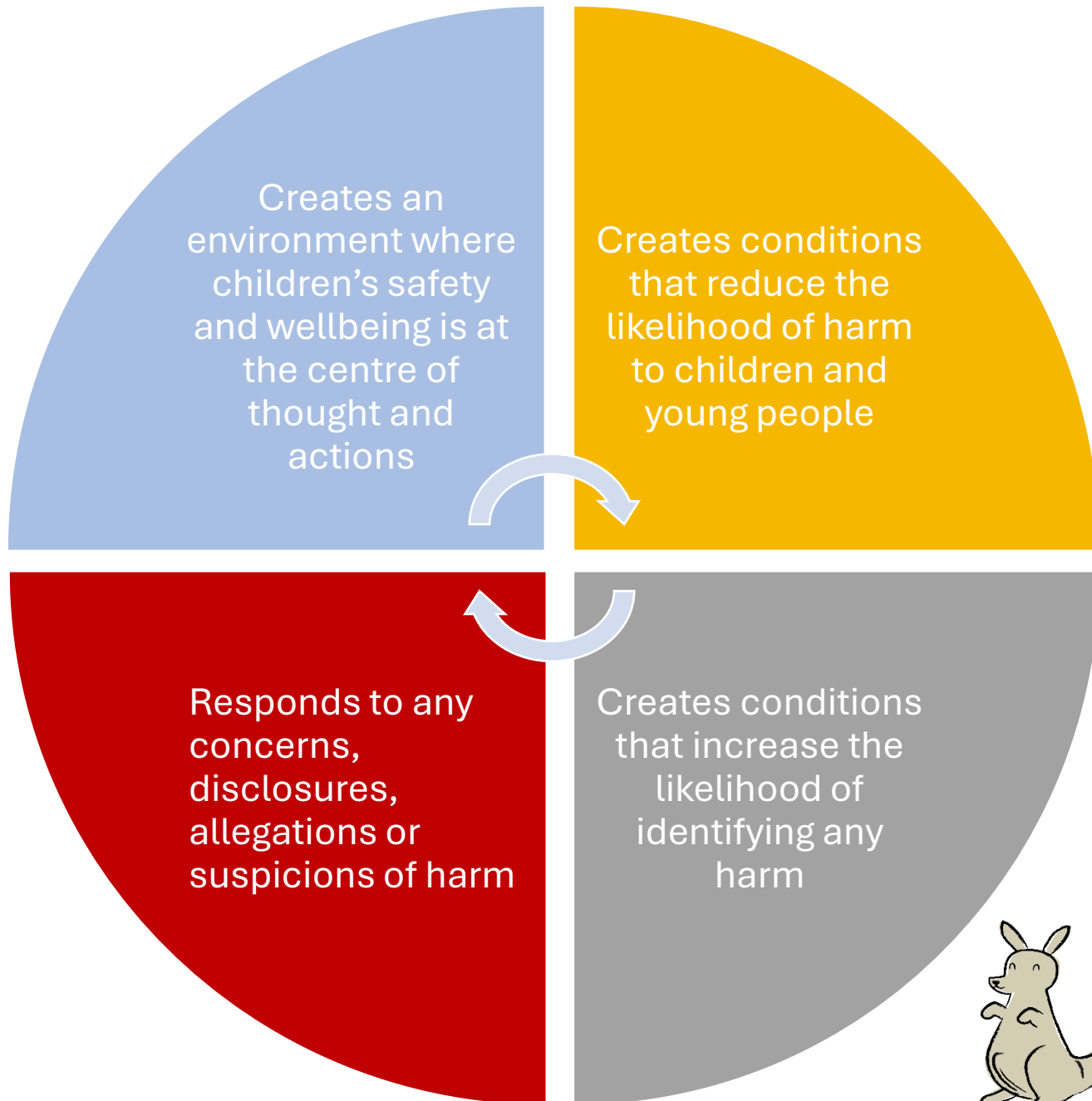
#1 Everyone under the age of 18 has all of these rights.

#2 You should be treated fairly	#3 Adults should do what is best for you	#4 Governments should protect your rights	#5 Your family should help you grow and enjoy your rights	#6 You have the right to life	#7 You have the right to a name, nationality and to know your family	#8 You should have an official record of your name, nationality and family
#9 You can live with your family, unless it isn't safe	#10 You should be reunited with your parent(s) if you are in separate countries	#11 No one can illegally take you out of Australia	#12 Your opinion matters, and adults should seriously consider your views in decisions that impact you	#13 You can learn new things and express yourself creatively	#14 You can choose what you think and believe	#15 You can start or join groups, and socialise with others
#16 Your privacy, reputation and family should be respected	#17 You should have access to reliable news and information	#18 You should be raised by your family, or a guardian who cares about and protects you	#19 You should be protected from being hurt or badly treated	#20 You should receive special protection and help if you can't live with your parents	#21 You should receive the best care possible if you are adopted or in foster care	#22 You should receive special protection and help if you are a refugee or asylum seeker
#23 You should have respect, care and support in living with a disability	#24 You have the right to healthcare, healthy food, clean water and a clean environment	#25 If you can't live at home, you should have your living situation regularly checked and reviewed	#26 Governments should help you afford the things you need to keep safe and healthy	#27 You have the right to food, clothing and a safe place to live	#28 You have the right to an education	#29 Your education should help you to thrive, enjoy your rights and understand your responsibilities
#30 You should be able to enjoy your own culture, religion and language, even if these are not the same as most people in your country	#31 You have the right to rest, play and relax	#32 You should be protected from work that exploits you, or harms your wellbeing and education	#33 You should be protected from anything to do with harmful drugs	#34 No one can sexually abuse or exploit you	#35 You cannot be kidnapped or sold	#36 No one can exploit you in any way
#37 You have the right to be treated fairly, even if you commit a crime	#38 You have the right to protection and care in times of war	#39 You have the right to special care to help you recover, if you have been harmed by war	#40 You should be helped and treated fairly if you are accused of breaking the law	#41 You should enjoy the protection of any Australian laws which provide better rights than the ones listed here	#42 You have the right to know your rights	#43-54 Governments, the United Nations and adults need to work together to protect your rights, and hold each other accountable for this



Part of the Save the Children Australia Group





What is a Child Safe Organisation?

9 Point Prevention Matrix

	Primary Prevention 	Secondary Prevention 	Tertiary Prevention 
<u>Offenders</u> Person at-risk of, or who have, perpetrated child sexual abuse	Strategies to prevent person from committing first sexual offence	Strategies focused on at-risk individuals or groups	Strategies implemented with the person who has perpetrated child sexual abuse to prevent recidivism
<u>Victims</u> Person at-risk of, or who have experienced child sexual abuse	Strategies for preventing a child being victimised for the first time	Strategies focused on at-risk individuals or groups	Strategies implemented with those who have been victimised to address harms and prevent repeat victimisation
<u>Settings</u> Where abuse occurs OR is more likely to occur	Strategies to prevent child sexual abuse occurring within the youth service organisations (or sub-setting)	Targeted environmental and situational crime prevention for at-risk spaces/settings	Strategies to reduce harms and recurrence in the youth service organisations (or sub-setting)

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the



Our Safeguarding Journey – 54 reasons

54 reasons

Frameworks

child i view
CHILD RIGHTS PRACTICE FRAMEWORK

why what how

54 reasons
Based on the children's rights and well-being approach

principles
The attitudes and behaviours that guide how we approach our practice and decision making.

standards
The best knowledge and evidence that children and young people have about their environment that informs our practice.

skills
The skills and approaches that are used to practice in a safe way and to ensure that children and young people are protected from harm.

values
The values that underpin our practice and inform our decisions and actions.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

54 reasons

Grid of 54 numbered points detailing the reasons for the framework.

Practice Training and

EVERYONE at 54 reasons must complete the modules below.

START HERE - Practice Matters
Our Approach to Practice and Impact Measurement

Practice Essentials
Essential knowledge to perform your work effectively

Assessing Risk and Safety
(Includes Child Protection)
Critical practice guidance to keep kids safe

Child Protection and Assessing the Risk
54 Reasons: Child Protection Guide

Child Protection and Assessing the Risk
54 Reasons: Understanding Child Sexual Abuse in Youth-Serving Organisations

De-escalation Training coming soon

Practice Tools

OUR PROMISE TO YOU!
Every child and young person has the right to be safe, happy, healthy and to be protected from harm. We promise that every child and young person who has been harmed will be supported and protected from further harm.

Working with us at 54 reasons
Welcome to 54 reasons! We're glad you're here and we can't wait to go to work with you.

Something that makes me feel safe...

My name: _____
My age: _____ My town: _____

Statement of Commitment to the Safety and Wellbeing of Children and Young People

Save the Children | 54 reasons

Every child and young person has the right to feel safe and be safe from physical, emotional, psychological, sexual and cultural abuse and neglect.

Introduction

54 reasons has a long history of working with children, young people, and their families across a range of child and family services including child development and parental attachment, child-focused domestic violence and family violence, youth justice services, school engagement, and wellbeing programs, migrant settlement support, and place-based initiatives, all of which are designed and delivered through a child rights approach. We also have a large emergency response and post-disaster portfolio, focused exclusively on children's experiences of crisis and recovery.

Our Values

Accountability: We take responsibility for being efficient, measurable and accountable, most of all, to children.

Collaboration: We respect each other, partner to make a difference for children.

Integrity: We aspire to the highest standards of honesty and behaviour and always act in the best interests of children.

Ambition: We set high goals and commit to improve the quality of everything we do for children.

Creativity: We are open to new ideas and take risks to develop sustainable solutions for and with children.

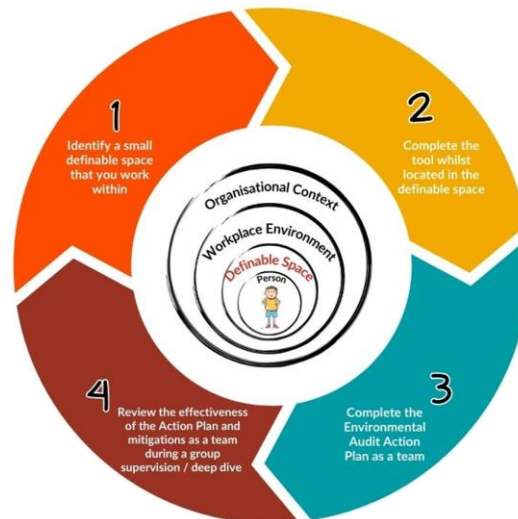
Our statement of commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people requires special care to protect them from harm and we recognise the inherent power differences that exist providing services to vulnerable children.

Our statement of commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a shared responsibility and we are committed to our employees, volunteers, and carers who work or come into contact with children and young people. This commitment is part of our overall organisational Safeguarding Framework.

We understand and acknowledge that keeping children and young people safe is a shared responsibility and we are committed to our employees, volunteers, and carers who work or come into contact with children and young people. This commitment is part of our overall organisational Safeguarding Framework.

2020-2027 Statement of Commitment to the Safety and Wellbeing of Children and Young People
Approved Date: 20/07/2022
Approved By: 54 reasons
Review Date: 01/07/2025
54reasons.org.au

Environmental Risk Assessment



Child Protection

USING THE CHILD NEGLECT INDEX (CNI) PRACTICE GUIDE

Overview
The CNI is a validated tool that helps practitioners assess children's safety based on their professional observations and experience working with the family. It is also a way to identify risk and protective factors in the wider home environment when a worker is discussing child protection concerns with a family. In some management programs, when a worker is discussing child protection concerns with a family, the CNI can help describe what is going on for the child in an objective and consistent way. It can also be used to track changes in a family's situation over time. The CNI can be an effective way for workers to collect information on the safety and wellbeing of children in their care, and help to identify children, young people or families that need extra support.

CHILD PROTECTION GUIDE

54 reasons

Environmental Audit Safeguarding Tool

What is an Environmental Audit?

An environmental audit helps us to identify areas of risk within our environments where children and young people are interacting with 54 reasons team members. We can then enhance safety by changing features of the environment to create more protective spaces for children and young people and their families.

There are 4 steps to complete this environmental audit safeguarding tool¹:

¹ Environmental Audit Tool developed by McKillop, N., Adams, D., Rayment-McHugh, S. (2022), Sunshine Coast University, Queensland.

Environmental Audit Safeguarding Tool (Page 1 of 10)
Approved by: Practice and Impact Measurement
Review Date: 01/10/2024

54 reasons is a business name of Save the Children Australia, a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

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Part of the Save the Children Australia Group

Environmental Audit Safeguarding Tool

Domain 1: Natural Surveillance

This refers to how much observation of others can occur within this space due only to the design / natural features of the environment (e.g. doors with glass panels, good lighting to allow clear visibility at night, limited 'private' or 'secluded' spaces). Identify key natural surveillance features that are present / absent in the definable space and consider priority status and possible mitigations.

Feature
NOTE: The list below is a guide only. It is not exhaustive, and not all features will be relevant to each 'definable space'.
Present or Absent | **Priority (H, M, L)** | **Comments & Mitigation (contextual information / changes to increase safety that could be considered / how time of day may also impact opportunities for harm to occur)**

Line of Sight: Is there line of sight supervision of people within the definable space? E.g.
 - Windows (internal facing into the office / staffed areas)
 - Windows (external facing outside the building)
 - Trees / gardens / hedges

Open Space: Is the definable space open to the public that could provide hiding places?

Help Available: If a child or young person is unable to quickly identify / locate staff?

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Environmental Audit Safeguarding Tool

Top Priority Improvements	Specific Action to be Taken	Who is Responsible	By When	Confirm Complete
Example Only: Improve line of sight of 'teepee' so that children inside the tent are visible.	1. Position the teepee with the tent opening facing to the middle of the children's play space. 2. Add feedback to keep the tent flap open. 3. Communicate instructions to all staff how to set up the teepee to maximise natural surveillance and safety. 4. Evaluate effectiveness of mitigation at Team Review.	1. All staff 2. Name 3. Team Leader 4. RM & TL	Immediately 20/09/2024 20/09/2024 10/10/2024	17/09/2024 17/09/2024 10/10/2024

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Environmental Audit Safeguarding Tool

Step 4 – Review the effectiveness of your team action plan together in group supervision / deep dive

Action Plan Review

Date of Review: _____ Team Leader: _____ Regional Manager: _____

Attendees: _____

Apologies: _____

What were our prioritised concerns?	Did we complete the mitigations as recommended?	How worried are we NOW about the prioritised concerns?	What still needs to be addressed?	Urgency
	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Comments: _____		<input type="checkbox"/> No longer concerned – no further action needed <input type="checkbox"/> Still concerned – further action needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent – site / equipment cannot be used until complete <input type="checkbox"/> Important, but temporary mitigations are in place <input type="checkbox"/> Can be addressed as part of BAU processes

Environmental Audit Safeguarding Tool (Page 18 of 20)
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Step 1 – Identify your space

Step 2 – complete the teal coloured section of the tool

Step 3 – Identify your top 3 improvements actions and be ready to share them

A protective organisational environment makes sure:

- Everyone has a strong understanding of what safeguarding is!
- There is good natural surveillance
- Responsible adults routinely move within line of sight in all areas
- Rooms have large unobstructed windows or observation panels
- Adults and children are encouraged to raise concerns (even apparently trivial concerns)
- There is clear policy and procedures for responding to ambiguous reports, disclosures and allegations so abuse is detected early



54 reasons

Thank you!



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Kate Inglis-Hodge

Board Member, Nature Play;
Program Coordinator, Stephen Michael
Foundation

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**Every organisation has a
responsibility to keep
children and young people
safe.**

Kate Inglis-Hodge | *Youth Board Member, Nature Play WA*

REGIONAL OPERATIONS - STEPHEN MICHAEL FOUNDATION





**what
we do**



“Kids are creative,
bold, and know what
feels right...”





and the more we listen to them, the better the outcome is for everyone."

Nature Play WA CEO, Dr Kelsie Prabawa-Sear

”

I know from experience consulting with kids that their [play space] plans would likely cost less than most new playgrounds, and that there would be something for everyone. There would be many more oddly shaped trees, shrubs and flowers, a lot less uniformity and focus on manicured lawns, and there would definitely be water and some epically risky things to climb.

Dr Kelsie Prabawa-Sear

- Prioritise the easy gets
- Sustainable actions
- Use and regularly review tools to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations:
 - *Self-assessment tool*
 - *Example child safe code of conduct*
- Get children and young people involved – “the more we listen the better the outcome is for everyone”



We **all** have a responsibility to
keep children and young
people safe.



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Kay Lane

Equity Projects Coordinator, ECU;
Lived Experience Advocate

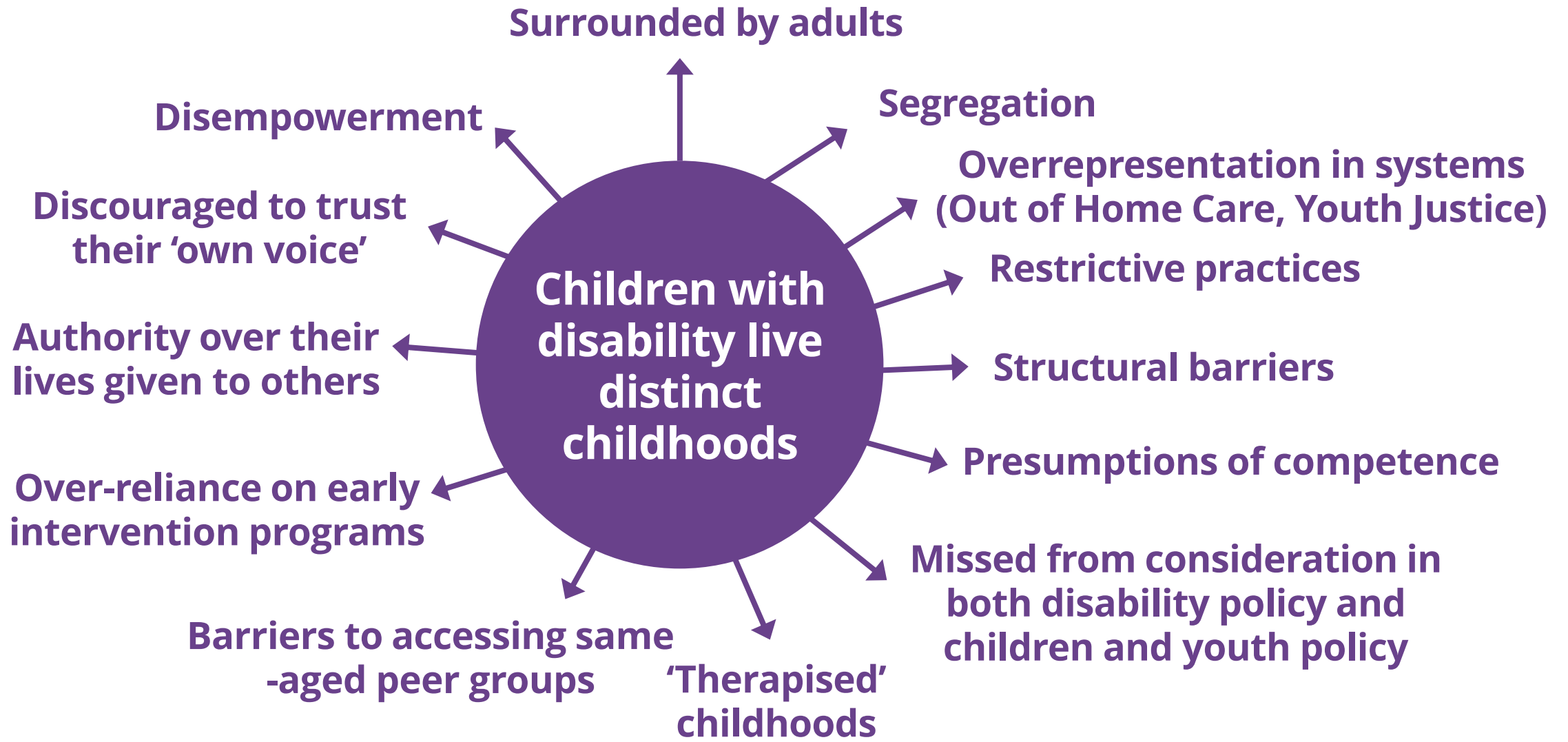
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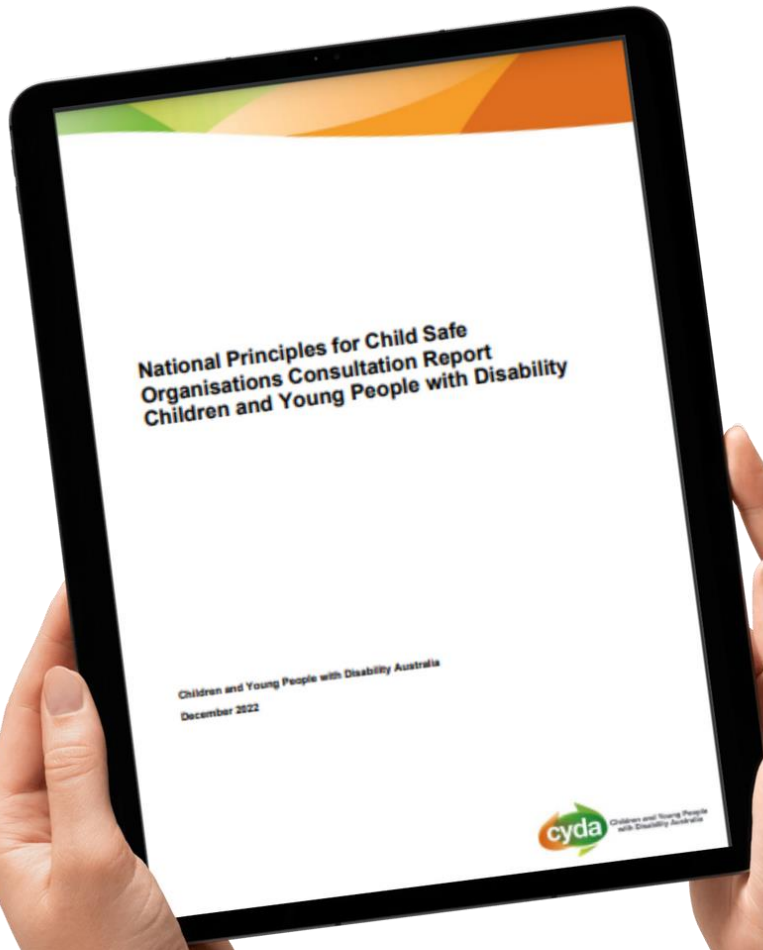


Implementing the National Child Safety Principles for Children and Young People with Disabilities

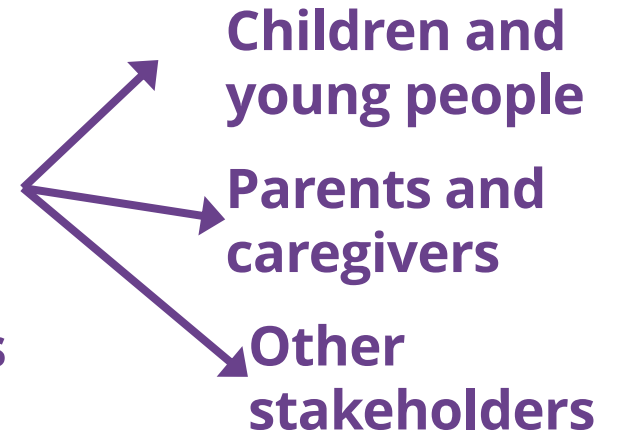
Kay Lane (née Barnard)



Do the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations meet the needs of children and young people with disability in principle and implementation?



- 14 Stakeholder consultations between August 2022 - September 2022
- Distinctions between impressions and expectations of safety between young people, adults and staff from organisations



'Have young disabled people of marginalised identities actually in their organisation. It proves that they're safe for people like me.'

- Young person with disability



What does 'safety' mean?

Dignity of risk – having the right to make choices and learning from the decisions they make.



Feeling capable



Being physically safe



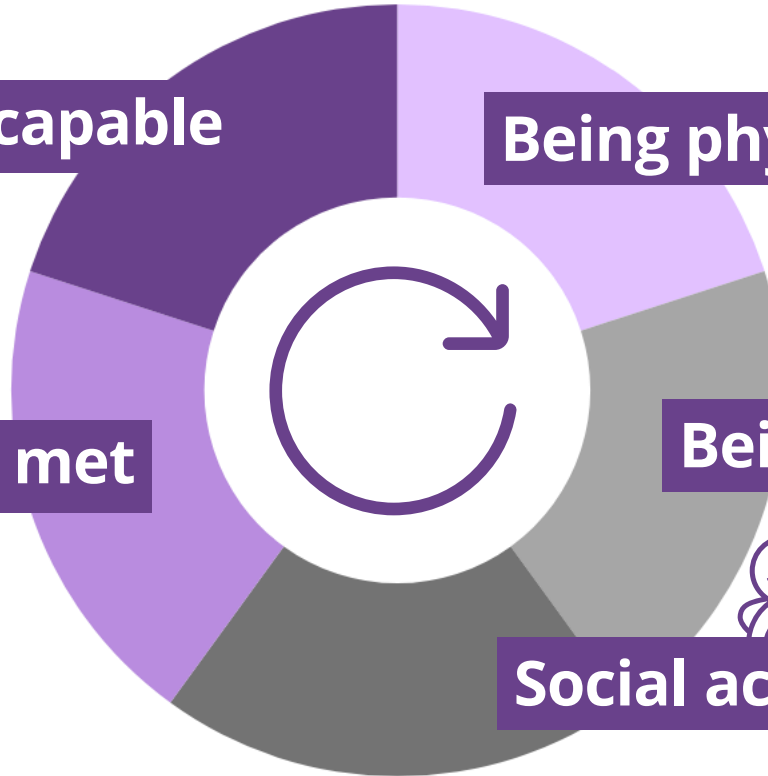
Having access needs met



Being emotionally safe



Social access



Creating conditions for conversations on safety in your organisation

- The role of empowerment in safety for children and young people with disability
- Children and young people with disability are not passive participants in their lives
- Honouring and creating space for diverse communication
- The trap of low expectations of children and young people with disability
- Honouring and creating space for the ways in which children with disability are keeping themselves safe





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Children's Week Symposium

Panel discussion

Facilitated by **Mikaela Scuderi**,
Department of Communities



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Panellists

- **Matt Gardiner**, CEO, 54 reasons
- **Kate Inglis-Hodge**, Board Member, Nature Play
- **Kay Lane**, Equity Projects Coordinator, Edith Cowan University
- **Naomi Blitz**, Ordinary Board Member, YACWA
- **Kathy Pickett**, Aboriginal Cultural Advisor, Yorgum Healing Services
- **Dr Nicole Leggett**, A/Assistant Director General, Strategy and Partnerships, Department of Communities

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Practical resources and examples to implement the National Principles are available online.

www.communities.wa.gov.au/childsafeargs



casroyalcommission@communities.wa.gov.au

Your feedback is important

Please complete our feedback survey



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Self-care

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Children's Week Symposium

Thank you

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