Australian Children's Laureate Foundation — Child Safety Standards (2026 Draft)

1. Commitment to Child Safety and Wellbeing

The ACLF is dedicated to ensuring that every child we engage with is safe, respected, and empowered.
We commit to:

- Embedding child safeguarding as a core organisational value.
- Prioritising the rights and participation of children in all programs.
- Maintaining a culture where abuse or harm is never tolerated.

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2. Child Participation and Empowerment

ACLF will:

- Create safe and inclusive ways for children to express their views about programs and safety concerns.
- Provide age-appropriate information regarding rights, safety, privacy, and how to seek help.
- Actively consider children's feedback when designing tours, events, digital initiatives, and learning materials.

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3. Families, Communities and Cultural Inclusion

ACLF will:

- Partner with educators and communities to foster transparent communication and shared responsibility for children's safety.
- Ensure safe and culturally respectful engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- Be inclusive and supportive of children from diverse backgrounds, abilities, languages, genders, and family structures.

4. Child-Safe Governance, Leadership and Accountability

ACLF leadership will:

- Embed risk controls, safety planning, and clear reporting obligations into organisational strategy and operations.
- Approve, monitor, and review all safeguarding policies annually (or more often if regulation changes).
- Ensure Board-level oversight of child safety incidents, training compliance, and risk assessment outcomes.

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5. Clear Codes of Conduct

ACLF will maintain and enforce a Child-Safe Code of Conduct that outlines:

- Appropriate and inappropriate behaviour for all staff, contractors, volunteers, Laureates, and partners.
- Expectations when interacting with children in person, online, or through creative programs.
- Consequences for breaches, including mandatory reporting, disciplinary action, and contract termination.

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6. Safer Recruitment and Screening

ACLF commits to:

- Mandatory Working With Children Checks (WWCC) for Board Members, Laureates and all other personnel in child-facing roles.
- Police checks for staff, Board members, and child facing contractors.
- Validating references and prior child-related employment.

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7. Training, Capability and Supervision

ACLF will:

- Provide annual child safety and mandatory reporting training to all personnel.

8. Child-Safe Risk Management

ACLF will:

- Maintain a Child Safety Risk Register covering in-person events, digital engagements, regional and remote visits, and partnerships.
- Conduct risk assessments for all programs involving children.
- Ensure safety planning is done for travel, online participation, high-profile events, and interactions with vulnerable children.
- Require partner organisations (schools, libraries, festivals) to demonstrate child-safe policies.

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9. Responding to Concerns, Disclosures and Allegations

ACLF will:

- Provide clear procedures for reporting safety concerns
- Immediately act on concerns, following mandatory reporting laws across all Australian jurisdictions.
- Ensure timely support, referral and protection for affected children.
- Report all allegations to appropriate authorities (police, child protection, funding bodies).
- Prioritise child wellbeing and confidentiality while meeting legal obligations.

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10. Privacy, Information Management and Digital Safety

ACLF will ensure:

- Children's personal information is collected, stored, and shared securely and lawfully.
- Digital platforms (virtual events, photos, recordings, communications) meet best-practice cybersecurity controls.
- Parental/guardian consent for all photography, filming, and media use.
- Online engagement environments are moderated, safe, inclusive, and free from harmful content.

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11. Safe Physical and Online Environments

ACLF will:

- Design environments that minimise opportunities for harm (including at external venues).
- Ensure two-adult presence or equivalent protection during events and workshops.
- Implement safe online protocols for virtual classrooms, livestream events, and digital content creation.

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12. Continuous Review and Improvement

ACLF commits to:

- Annual review of all policies, incidents, training records, and risk assessments.
- Transparent reporting of safeguarding performance to the Board and stakeholders.
- Engaging children, families and communities in continuous improvement processes.