

## **Therapy Pro's statement of commitment to child safety:**

Consistent with the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Bill (Vic) 2015*, and the *The Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act (Qld) 2000* and the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation (Qld) 2011* Therapy Pro will create and maintain a child safe organisation, where the rights of children and their interests are paramount.

Children working with Therapy Pro have the right to feel safe, included and respected. Therapy Pro will ensure that all children with whom we work, are safe from potential or actual child abuse.

Therapy Pro has a zero tolerance to child abuse. Child abuse is any act committed against a child involving physical violence, sexual offences, serious emotional or psychological abuse or serious neglect.

Therapy Pro has a duty of care to keep children safe and all staff working with children are appropriately qualified and screened for suitability. Staff working with children individually and collectively are responsible for reporting any incidents that threaten a child's safety and wellbeing.

Therapy Pro will take seriously and treat with sensitivity, any disclosure from a child who reports they are feeling unsafe or being abused. Any potential or actual child abuse or risk of child abuse will be reported by Therapy Pro staff immediately to the General Manager, and as required Child Protection Services in accordance with the Child Safe Standards. The reporting procedure is outlined in *Therapy Pro Preventing, Identifying and Responding to Abuse, Harm and Neglect Policy and Procedure – Victoria*; and the *Therapy Pro Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Discrimination Policy and Procedure - Queensland*; *Therapy Pro Critical Incident Management and Reporting Policy and Procedure – Queensland*.

Therapy Pro is committed to the safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, culturally and linguistically diverse children and children with a disability, and will work to ensure that the cultural and disability needs of those children are considered when responding to allegations or incidences of child abuse.

The *Therapy Pro Works with Children and Keeps Children Safe* document is provided to all children and families during work Therapy Pro's work with them, and is designed to assist staff to support children and young people to understand their rights, contribute to children being able to raise concerns and promote and encourage the child's participation in asking questions, speaking up if they are worried, and valuing their views and opinions.

All Therapy Pro staff including the leadership team undergo and maintain appropriate and relevant training in relation to the protection of children. Every member of Therapy Pro staff is required to abide by and sign the organisation's Code of Conduct for Working with

Children and any breach of the code will result in disciplinary action, which may include termination of an individual's employment with the organization.

Therapy Pro ensures that they adhere to the 8 requirements set down in legislation in Queensland, these are:

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**Commitment:**

1. A statement of commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and the protection of children from harm; *and*
2. A code of conduct for interacting with children.

**Capability:**

3. Written procedures for recruiting, selecting, training and managing staff and volunteers;

**Concerns:**

4. Policies and procedures for handling disclosures or suspicions of harm, including reporting guidelines;
5. A plan for managing breaches of your risk management strategy; *and*
6. Risk management plans for high risk activities and special events;

**Consistency:**

7. Policies and procedures for managing compliance with the blue card system; *and*
8. Strategies for communication and support.

Therapy Pro is committed to ensuring that our Practice of providing therapeutic services is underlined by the commitment to keep children safe in all contexts of their lives. It is the "Therapy Pro Way".