Children's Rights & Participation Statement

Children and Young People Matter Here

Yoorana believes that all children and young people have the right to be safe, respected, heard and supported.

We are committed to creating an environment where children and young people feel welcome, included, and able to speak up about things that matter to them.

This statement explains your rights and how you can have a say in the services and activities we provide.

In line with the Queensland Child Safe Standards, we commit to:

Implementing the **Universal Principle** to promote and uphold the right to cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children:

- We are a non-Aboriginal crisis accommodation service for women and children escaping domestic and family violence.
- We welcome the responsibility we now have to implement the Universal Principle on cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.
- We commit to reflecting on where Yoorana is regarding cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. We will do this by:
    - Commencing a self-assessment process for implementing the Universal Principle and Child Safe Standards in Queensland within the 26-27 financial year.
    - Following our self-assessment process, we will engage local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to assist us in reviewing our processes, and collaborate to develop a plan to strengthen our cultural safety.
    - Collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families who we work with for their views on cultural safety in our organisation.
    - Collaborate with our staff to strengthen their capability to create culturally safe practice and environment.
    - Include the actions to implement the outcomes of the self-assessment process in our Strategic Plan 2026 – 2028.

Your Rights

Every child and young person has the right to:

- Feel safe and be protected from harm, abuse, neglect and violence
- Be treated fairly and with respect, no matter who you are or where you come from
- Have your voice heard and your views taken seriously
- Get information in ways you can understand
- Have your privacy respected
- Speak up or make a complaint without being punished or treated badly

*These rights are based on the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** and Australia's Child Safe Standards.*

Your Right to Have a Say

We believe children and young people are experts in their own lives.

You have the right to:

- Share your ideas, opinions and feelings
- Tell us what is working well and what is not
- Be involved in decisions that affect you, in ways that are safe and appropriate for your age and situation

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- Say “no” or ask questions if something doesn’t feel right
- You can share your views in your own way, by talking, writing, drawing, or with help from someone you trust.

How We Support Participation

We will:

- Listen carefully and take you seriously
- Explain things clearly and honestly
- Give you choices wherever possible
- Support you to speak up, on your own or with a trusted adult, advocate or support person
- Make sure participation is safe, voluntary and respectful
- We understand that speaking up can feel hard sometimes. We will never force you to share, and we will never get angry with you for telling us how you feel.

Feeling Unsafe or Worried?

If something makes you feel unsafe, uncomfortable or worried, you have the right to tell someone.

You can:

- Talk to a staff member or volunteer
- Ask a trusted adult to help you speak up
- We will take your concerns seriously and do our best to keep you safe.

Privacy and Respect

We respect your privacy. Information about you will be handled carefully and shared only when necessary to keep you safe or as required by law.

Our Commitment

We are committed to creating a child safe, inclusive and empowering environment where children and young people are valued, protected and involved, not just listened to, but truly heard.

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