

# Code of Conduct



This Code of Conduct outlines appropriate standards of behaviour by adults towards children.

The Code of Conduct aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur. It also helps members by providing them with guidance on how to best support children and how to avoid or better manage difficult situations. All members who have direct, unsupervised contact with children in the performance of their VBSA related activities are required to complete this Code of Conduct.

VBSA members are responsible for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people by:

- adhering to our [Child Safe Policy](#), and other policies including the Victorian [Child Safe Standards](#)
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- treating everyone with respect, including listening to and valuing their ideas and opinions
- welcoming all children and their families and carers and being inclusive
- respecting cultural, religious and political differences and acting in a culturally sensitive way
- modelling appropriate adult behaviour
- listening to children and responding to them appropriately
- reporting and acting on any breaches of this Code of Conduct, complaints or concerns
- working with children in an open and transparent way
- respecting the privacy of children and their families, and only disclosing information to people who have a need to know.

VBSA members must NOT:

- seek to use children in any way to meet the needs of adults
- ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse
- use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or oppressive language with children
- engage in rough physical games
- discriminate on the basis of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability or sexuality
- initiate unnecessary physical contact with children or do things of a personal nature that children can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes
- develop 'special' relationships with specific children or show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention
- exchange personal contact details such as phone number, social networking site or email addresses with children
- have unauthorised contact with children and young people online or by phone.

I have read this Code of Conduct and agree to abide by it at all times.

Your name .....

Witness name .....

Signature .....

Signature .....

Date ..... / ..... / .....

Date ..... / ..... / .....