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## 10 - Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

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### Introduction

U3A Yarra Ranges has limited contact with children, however venues occupied by the organisation are, on occasion, in the vicinity of areas frequented by children.

This Statement affirms that U3A Yarra Ranges members and volunteers:

- have zero tolerance for child abuse
- are fully committed to the safety, happiness, and empowerment of all children
- support and respect all children
- actively work to listen to children
- have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when worried about a child's safety
- are committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early and removing and reducing these risks
- are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability
- will take all allegations and concerns very seriously and respond to them consistently

### Allegations, Concerns and Complaints

It is the responsibility of all U3A Yarra Ranges members and volunteers to report an allegation of abuse if there is a reasonable belief that an incident occurred. If an adult has a reasonable belief that an incident has occurred, then they must report the incident in accordance with U3A Yarra Ranges Policies and Procedures.

Factors contributing to reasonable belief may include:

- a child stating that they, or someone they know, has been abused (noting that sometimes the child may in fact be referring to themselves)
- observing behaviour consistent with that of an abuse victim
- someone else raising a suspicion of abuse but being unwilling to report it
- observing suspicious behaviour

## Authorisation

This Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

- was adopted by the Executive Committee of Management of U3A Yarra Ranges, and minuted as such, on 01 September 2022.
- will be published by the Committee of Management of U3A Yarra Ranges on its website within 4 weeks of the date of this authorisation.

## Related Policies – U3A Yarra Ranges:

- 01 Privacy
- 02 Sexual Harassment
- 03 Code of Conduct
- 04 Bullying
- 05 Risk Management
- 06 Anti-discrimination
- 07 Health & Safety (Serious Injury and Incident)
- 09 Social Media and Networking