

OUR COMMITMENT

YMCA Whittlesea will:

- Always act in accordance with our YMCA Values of honesty, respect, caring & responsibility
- Report and respond to any concern that we have about the safety of children or young people.
- Ensure that all YMCA Staff and Volunteers complete appropriate Safeguarding Children and Young People Training and understand their responsibilities to act in the best interests of children and young people.
- Ensure that all YMCA Personnel have completed a National Criminal History Records Check and a Valid Working with Children Check.

We ask Parents and Guardians to:

- Ensure that your children have adequate supervision at all times when you visit a YMCA Centre/Service

BABYSITTING/PRIVATE COACHING SERVICES

The YMCA does not provide private services (or at-home care).

We do take all reasonable steps to keep your children safe while they are at the YMCA, and we take this responsibly very seriously. However, any private arrangement is outside of our control, and we cannot ensure the safety of your children if you choose to enter into a private arrangement with one of our volunteers/employees.



As a child safe organisation, we support any member of the community to report any suspected child abuse directly to the Police or the Department of Human Services.

A report to the local Police Station may be made if you are concerned about any general form of suspected abuse, threat or harm to the health and safety of children and young people.

A report to Department of Human Services (DHS) should be made in circumstances that occur within a family or home environment involving suspected physical or emotional abuse, disclosure of abuse or persistent neglect and/or family violence.

Contact DHS at (03) 9096 0000

In an emergency contact the Police on Triple Zero '000'.

For concerns about the safety of a child within their family unit, contact the Department of Human Services Child Protection Crisis Line by telephone on 13 12 78.

If you have any concerns regarding the safety of children, young people, or any other patron, report that concern to the Manager on duty so we can ensure their well-being.

SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY APPROACH TO KEEPING KIDS AND YOUNG PEOPLE SAFE

There are many ways to ensure the kids in our community are safe and happy. At the Y, we work across the community with a number of partners and recognise other organisations essential role in supporting children and young people.

If you or someone you know would benefit from further information, the following organisations are also here to help:

Beyond Blue 1300 22 46 36

Kids HelpLine 1800 55 1800



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE Y

At the Y, we are committed to ensuring all children and young people reach their full potential as we strive to achieve our mission of building healthier and happier communities. We consider the safety and wellbeing of children and young people to be of utmost importance and have prepared this information to communicate our commitment to parents and guardians.

At YMCA Whittlesea, we recruit, employ, train and support the best people to supervise, care, educate and work with children and young people across our programs and services.

They act in the best interests of the children and young people in our care and take all reasonable steps to ensure their safety.

In particular, we are committed to providing an environment where all children and young people are protected from any form of abuse or mistreatment.



YMCA Whittlesea is committed to safeguarding children and young people. We have a variety of practices in place to ensure that your children are safe when at the Y.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE FRAMEWORK

- Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedure
- Incident Reporting and Management Framework
- Health, Safety & Environment Focus
- Staff Code of Conduct
- SunSmart Practices



We are working with the Australian Childhood Foundation to make our Y even safer!

OUR RECRUITMENT PRACTICES

We require all applicants to undergo an extensive screening process prior to appointment, and successful applicants must comply with the YMCA's Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework

- Thorough Recruitment and Selection Process
- Thorough Recruitment Screening, which includes:
- Minimum of two reference checks
- National Criminal History Records Check,
- Working with Children Check
- Through Induction and Training Process,
- Accredited Child Protection Training Program

YMCA WHITTLESEA CEO



“We believe in the power of inspired young people”

As a mum of three young boys, what drew me to join the YMCA team was its commitment to the safety of children and young people. As a registered child safe organisation, we strongly believe and recognise that all children and young people have the right to develop and reach their potential in an environment that is caring, nurturing and safe.

The YMCA denounces all forms of abuse and neglect towards children and young people and works actively to provide a safe environment in all of our programs. Any incidents of suspected child abuse will be acted upon immediately and appropriately.

We are committed to keeping children and young people safe, to give them a voice and support them to achieve their full potential. As part of our commitment we continue to work with children and young people to let them guide us on what it means to feel safe and connected. This is encapsulated in everything we do.

We are committed to this journey.

Michele Rowse
CEO (Chief Experience Officer)
YMCA Whittlesea