

Child Safe Organisation Statement

The safety of children and young people is everyone's responsibility within Tasmania Legal Aid (TLA), even those who do not work directly with children and young people. TLA recognises its role in keeping children and young people safe from all forms of harm, listening to their experiences, and providing safe environments.

TLA represents children in many legal matters. TLA acknowledges its unique role in supporting children and young people to understand their rights and to participate meaningfully in legal processes that affect them.

TLA will recognise and respond appropriately to concerns about inappropriate behaviour by all people working and volunteering at TLA towards children or young people, including reportable conduct, and will foster a culture where these concerns are reported and responded to, in a child-centred way.

TLA will always act where there is a concern that people working or volunteering at TLA have engaged in inappropriate conduct towards any child or young person, (including reportable conduct), and will enact a child-centred response that affords procedural fairness to all involved.

TLA will implement the Child and Youth Safe Standards and the Universal Principle for Aboriginal Cultural Safety and identify and proactively manage risks to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. TLA recognises the ongoing impacts of colonisation and systemic discrimination of Aboriginal children and young people. TLA is committed to delivering culturally safe legal services that respects culture, supports self-determination, and ensures Aboriginal children and young people feel safe and empowered when engaging with our organisation.

TLA will support employees to understand their obligations under this Policy, including their role in keeping children and young people safe, and recognising signs of abuse and harm, through supporting staff to complete all mandatory Department of Justice (DoJ) training, as well as exploring our own training opportunities.

TLA will facilitate and encourage feedback from children and young people, and we will continue to incorporate client and community voices into the improvement of our services through our client engagement work and consultation processes. TLA recognises child safety is an evolving process requiring sustained commitment.

TLA recognises the responsibility of being a child safe organisation and understands this work is never completed. Rather, it is an ongoing process of reviewing and strengthening child safety practices.

