



## Child and Youth Safeguarding

At Spark Youth Hub Ltd, we are committed to ensuring the safety, security and well-being of all the children and young people we work with.

As part of our commitment to the Child Safe Standards, we're dedicated to:

- Preventing harm to the young people we support by identifying risks early and doing everything we can to reduce or remove them.
- Taking every concern or report of abuse seriously and handling it the right way, following our policies and procedures.
- Meeting all legal obligations, including reporting any suspicions of abuse to the police or child protection services, while acknowledging that these institutions can sometimes be sources of harm themselves. We remain committed to advocating for the safety and wellbeing of young people in all circumstances.

At our core, we celebrate diversity in everything we do. We're all about making sure every young person feels safe, respected, and empowered, especially those who might often feel left out. We cater to young people who are marginalised, including but not limited to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, those from refugee or migrant backgrounds, LGBTQIA+ youth, trans and gender diverse young people, those from rural and regional areas, and young people living with a disability. Everyone deserves to be part of a community where they can be themselves, and we're committed to making that happen in our organisation!

Everyone working or volunteering with Spark Youth Hub has a shared responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of the young people in our programs. If anyone has concerns about abuse or harm, it's on all of us to speak up and report it. All staff and volunteers receive training in child and youth safeguarding and hold valid Working with Children Checks. They also participate in regular training to stay equipped and informed, ensuring the safety and well-being of the young people we support.

### Concerns about a child or young person

If you have a concern about the safety of children or young people engaged with Spark Youth Hub or our partner organisations, or you have a concern about any of our employees or volunteers, please contact our designated Safeguarding Manager, on 0437007437 or [laura@sparkyouthhub.org](mailto:laura@sparkyouthhub.org).

**You can access our full Child and Youth Safeguarding Policy [here](#).**



## **Child and Youth Safeguarding Principles**

**We are guided by 3 core child and youth safeguarding principles:**

### **1. Youth participation**

At Spark, youth participation means empowering young people to actively and meaningfully shape decisions that affect them and their communities. We work in partnership with young people, supporting them to lead efforts to tackle injustice and involve them in decision-making within our organisation. This approach ensures their safety and well-being, while also recognizing the importance of their input in developing safeguarding mechanisms. We believe in shifting from doing things *for* young people to working *with* them as co-creators and decision-makers in everything we do.

### **2. Intersectionality**

We take a transformative approach to youth-led intersectional justice by empowering young people to shape their own futures. We encourage them to take control and engage in collective action that challenges intersecting power dynamics and discriminatory social norms, policies, and behaviours.

By understanding how different identities—such as race, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status—interact and impact each young person's experience, we can create more inclusive and effective safeguarding measures. This means ensuring that all young people feel seen, heard, and supported in our programs.

### **3. Empowerment**

We believe that the biggest and most lasting changes in young people's lives happen when they're empowered to take action themselves. That means young people – along with their allies – need to know their rights, build the confidence and skills to speak up, and have safe spaces where they can come together, organise, and make their voices heard by decision-makers. Since speaking out can sometimes put young people at risk, it's crucial that we have a clear youth safeguarding policy in place to protect their well-being every step of the way.