



YMCA NORTH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT STATEMENT

YMCA A Child Safe Organisation

Statement of Commitment

YMCA North has a zero tolerance policy to child abuse and neglect as part of our commitment to the rights of children and young people to feel safe and be safe when participating in our organisation's activities. YMCA takes all reasonable steps to ensure the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children, young people.

Sadly Aotearoa/New Zealand has significantly high levels of child vulnerability, abuse and neglect. YMCA's vision is 'we build strong kids, strong families and strong communities'. So strong is our commitment to keeping our tamariki and rangatahi free from abuse and neglect, YMCA has committed go above our legislative requirements and lead safeguarding best practice in all our undertakings.

There is a requirement for all YMCA staff (which includes its Board of Directors, volunteers and contractors), consultants, affiliated associations, clients, parents, guardians, families and others associated with YMCA to understand the important responsibility they have to:

- Protect children, young people and vulnerable adults from all forms of abuse, bullying and exploitation by our people
- Respond to all Safeguarding concerns that may have an impact on the children and young people to whom we provide a service
- Create and maintain a safe culture that is understood, endorsed and put into action by all the individuals who work for, volunteer or access our programs and services

Safeguarding Children

YMCA North is accredited by the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) under the Safeguarding Children Program.

This program is a voluntary accreditation scheme designed for organisations who have a duty of care to children and young people whilst delivering a service or activity to them and/or their families. It systematically builds the capacity of organisations to keep children and young people safe from abuse and exploitation by staff, volunteers or other relevant individuals.

Gaining full accreditation means that YMCA successfully meets and complies with the ACF's seven standards of the accreditation requirements. It recognises that we know how to keep children and young people safe from harm and endorses our efforts to actively pursue the highest level of child safety in our organisation.

The accreditation also highlights our ability to:

- Enhance and maintain a collective culture promoting the safety of tamariki and rangatahi;
- Design, review and implement specific safeguarding policies and procedures;
- Provide relevant safeguarding induction and training to all staff (includes volunteers and contractors);
- Engage the involvement of tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau in safeguarding practices;
- Implement a consistent set of endorsed operational standards at every level;
- Identify and respond effectively to safeguarding concerns.

For more information on the accreditation process, visit the <https://www.childhood.org.au/>



YMCA NORTH SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Supporting YMCA in embedding a safeguarding culture in all our undertakings is our Safeguarding Governance Group (consisting of various YMCA business unit representatives) and our designated Safeguarding Manager (Chris Laing) and safeguarding Champions. YMCA view this as a continuous journey and one that will be taken collaboratively with our staff, stakeholders and customers.

Safeguarding is EVERYBODY's Responsibility

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Baldey'.

Julian Baldey

Chief Executive Officer