

Action Plan

FOR CHILD SAFETY IN DANCE IN WA

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1 Get familiar with the 10 National Principles

A great place to start is to familiarise yourself with the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. You can read more about how and why these were developed on Ausdance WA's landing page [here](#).

2 Complete the Self-Assessment Tool accompanied by our support document

Next, we recommend you grab a few colleagues together over a coffee and work through the Child Safe Organisation (CSO)'s Self-Assessment Tool. This is a reflective process, and walks through each of the 10 principles and how they apply to you and your studio or business. The tool allows you to rank your compliance or understanding, to highlight areas of improvement and to set targets for when you'd like to achieve these.

While this tool was created for all organisations working with children, Ausdance WA has developed the Tips for Dance Studios, Schools and Initiatives as a complimentary support document, recontextualising specifically for dance, with handy reflections to assist you.

3 View the Sample Statements of Commitment

To demonstrate your intention of upholding best practice in Child Safety and Wellbeing, and to publicly declare this to your community, we recommend creating a Statement of Commitment to Child Safety. This can be a powerful way of holding your studio/business or organisation accountable, and remind you to work proactively in protecting children and young people safe by keeping the mission front of mind, and child-focused. See our Sample Statements of Commitment with more information about how to implement them in your studio or dance culture.

4 Familiarise yourself with the Concerns for Child Welfare Reporting Template

This document details what to do if you suspect a child or young person is at risk of harm. The flowchart has been adapted from True Sport (SportWest) and Sport Integrity Australia's resource pack and has been redeveloped by Ausdance WA to provide information and scenarios specific to dance.

5

Attend workshops and webinars

Ausdance WA is in the first phase of consultation and development of this resource suite informed by the Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit and the work of True Sport (SportWest) and Sport Integrity Australia, as well as Ausdance's established history in the practice of Safe Dance across decades of research. Across the next 12 months, these resources will be shared, and there will also be opportunities to take part in both in-person workshops and online webinars to support understanding, clarity and awareness of Child Safety in Dance.

You can find information on webinars and upcoming workshops via our website.

Do you have feedback, or a particular area you'd like us to focus on next? Let us know via email at director.wa@ausdance.org.au



Child Safety in Australia

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission, 2013) uncovered shocking abuse of children within institutions in Australia. The Commission recommended taking action to make organisations across the country safe for children. The development of the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations is a key national reform in response to these recommendations. The Principles provide a blueprint for improving child safety and cover all aspects of an organisations interaction with children and young people. They were endorsed by all Commonwealth, state and territory governments in 2019 and provide a nationally consistent approach to embedding child safe cultures within organisations that engage with children, and act as a vehicle to give effect to all Royal Commission recommendations related to child safe standards.



Context for Dance in Western Australia

Our [Child Safety landing page](#) provides information about the context for WA. While there is no legal requirement to comply with the National Principles yet, it is important for all organisations working with children to proactively work towards implementing child safety practices and procedures to make sure they are keeping children safe. Ausdance WA have worked alongside the Department of Creative Industries, Tourism and Sport's Child Safeguarding Implementation Unit, Sport Integrity Australia, the national Ausdance network and an Advisory Group made of industry representatives to develop resources that support dance teachers/studio owners to make positive changes and to prepare for changes in WA's legislation.



About us Ausdance WA

Established in 1977, Ausdance WA is a not-for-profit membership organisation dedicated to support and advocacy for the dance sector in Western Australia. It provides leadership, education, and resources to dance artists, teachers in schools, studios and community cultural and recreational contexts, and dance companies and organisations across the state.

We exist to ensure West Australians have access to the best experiences of dance - as participants, audiences, creators and performers. As part of a national Ausdance network, we have a history in research, education and support, developing guidelines and standards in safe dance for nearly 50 years.



Additional resources for Ausdance WA members



Sign up as an Ausdance WA member and login to your Member Account to access the Member Hub, where you will find our Child Safe Codes of Conduct for:

- Having a Voice in Dance - Children and Young People,
- Parents and Families, and
- Teachers and Staff

IN DEVELOPMENT:

As an Ausdance WA member you will also receive a special monthly email that features a Safeguarding Checklist for Dance Studios. Developed as a reflective tool to help you quickly identify areas of improvement in your safeguarding practices, this checklist is sent to you in bite-sized prompts that you can work through at your own pace, beginning January 2026.

[Sign up to our e-news](#) to stay informed, or [join as a member](#) to unlock more resources and support.