

CITY OF PARRAMATTA COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

All children have the right to be safe.

On behalf of the City of Parramatta Council, I am committed to the safety, wellbeing and empowerment of all children and young people within our care and who access our services. City of Parramatta Council has a zero tolerance of child abuse.

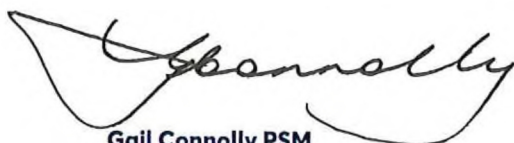
We will:

- Treat seriously all allegations and safety concerns, in line with our robust policies and procedures.
- Be responsive to the needs of all children and young people. Council is committed to the rights of children and young people to feel safe and be safe when participating in our organisation's activities, including those from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, in out-of-home care, with a disability, mental illness or in the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Ensure children's voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Council supports the active participation of children in the programs, activities and services we offer. We provide a range of ways to allow children to provide feedback or raise concerns. We listen to their views, respect what they say and involve them when we make decisions, especially about matters that will directly affect them.
- Ensure that child safety and wellbeing is embedded in our organisational culture, reflected in our policies and procedures, and understood and practiced at all levels of our work.
- Maintain a rigorous and consistent recruitment, screening and selection process to discourage and screen out people who are unsuitable to work with Children and help ensure that only the most suitable applicants who have a positive attitude to Child safety and wellbeing are employed. Only people with valid Working with Children Checks are engaged in Child-Related Work.
- Provide resources to ensure our Child Safe policy and related procedures comply with all relevant Acts, Regulations and legislation, including but not limited to the national child safe standards.

All City of Parramatta workers (including agency staff, students on placement, and volunteers), Councillors and Contracted Services Providers delivering services involving Child-Related Work, either on behalf of or with Council are required to understand and act immediately on, the important responsibility they have to:

- Cooperate with Council's Child Safe Code of Conduct;
- Complete appropriate safeguarding children and young people training and understanding their responsibilities to act in the best interests of children and young people;
- Take the appropriate steps to report and respond to any incidents of abuse, neglect or exploitation observed or brought to their attention; and
- Ensure no one feels threatened, afraid or unsafe and that they are aware of how, and are comfortable to, raise any concerns or issues with our staff, knowing that concern or issue will be acted on appropriately and taken seriously.

The signing of this document demonstrates our commitment to achieving these goals.



Gail Connolly PSM
Chief Executive Officer
29 August 2024