

Safeguarding Children and Young People at the Y Brisbane



The safety and well-being of children and young people is our highest priority at the Y. The more that Safeguarding is discussed in the community, the greater awareness levels are developed.

The information in this brochure helps everyone in our community to increase their awareness and to help protect children and young people from any form of harm/abuse or neglect.

Safe Environment

At the Y we employ suitably qualified staff to supervise, care for and educate children and young people across all of our programs and services. We strive always, to act in the best interests of children and young people who are entrusted to our care and take all reasonable steps to ensure their safety.

Above all, we are committed to providing an environment where everyone is protected from any form of abuse/harm, neglect or inappropriate behaviour. At the Y we believe in the power of inspired young people. For young people to be inspired, we know they need to feel safe and be safe.

Safeguarding Board Sponsor



Leanne Geppert
Safeguarding Board Sponsor

The Y Brisbane has appointed a Board level Safeguarding Sponsor who is responsible for providing strategic oversight and direction for Safeguarding. The role is supported by a Safeguarding Sub-Committee and reports directly to the Board. The Board has also developed a Safeguarding commitment statement.

Message from our CEO

Damian Foley



At the Y Brisbane, our mission is to provide opportunities for all people to grow in mind, body and spirit in a safe environment. The Y Brisbane is committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people accessing its programs and services.

The Y Brisbane supports the rights of the child and will deliver a child safe environment at all times. The Y Brisbane also supports the rights and wellbeing of our Y People and encourages their active participation in building and maintaining a safe environment for children and young people. The Y People must maintain the highest standards of professional conduct in their behaviour towards children/young people and their families.

Our Y has developed strong processes and procedures to help keep children and young people safe. We have clear policies, stringent employment procedures including Working with Children Checks, as well as regular staff training.

All staff complete a Safeguarding induction, are trained in our National Safe Behaviors, and must abide by this Safeguarding Code of Conduct

We are pleased that Y Brisbane are working with the Australian Childhood Foundation (ACF) to review our Safeguarding practices and procedures.

Safeguarding Framework

The Y has a culture of awareness supported by:

- At the heart of our Safeguarding Framework is our Safeguarding Vision, to 'feel safe, be safe.'
- Our Safeguarding Vision stands on three Pillars: Culture, Operations and Environment
- Clear documented Safeguarding policies and procedures
- Incident reporting, management and a culture of continuous improvement
- A focus on staff and volunteers documenting any concerns they may have
- A culture of if you see something, hear something or feel something... tell someone

Recruitment Practices

We require staff and volunteers to undergo an extensive screening process prior to appointment. Successful applicants must:

- Maintain a current Working with Children Check
- Complete a face to face interview that includes Safeguarding questions
- Pass two reference checks
- Complete the YMCA Safeguarding Children and Young People Induction Course introduction training into YMCA Safeguarding policies & procedures, Safe Behaviours- Code of Conduct, and the importance of Safeguarding children and young people at the Y.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from further information, the following external organisations may be able to help:

Family and Child Connect	13 32 64
Department of Child Safety:	1800 811 810
Family Violence & Sexual Assault:	1800 737 732
Lifeline:	13 11 14
Kids Help Line:	1800 551 800

The Y Brisbane Safeguarding Team



Charlene Reynolds
Safeguarding
Manager



Alana Gore
Safeguarding
Advisor

We encourage everyone to speak up with any feedback, complaints and reports of suspected child abuse/harm or inappropriate behaviour toward children and young people.

We are committed to our obligations to ensure the safety of children and young people in the Y. All staff are trained in reporting Safeguarding concerns and are mandated to escalate these to the relevant authorities.

If there are concerns about the safety of a child, young person or vulnerable adult within our programs or facilities please report it to the Manager on duty or call 3253 1700 or email: Safeguarding@ymcabrisbane.org If you believe a child or young person is in immediate danger or is in a life-threatening situation, contact the Queensland Police Service immediately by dialling 000.

