

Beyond Compliance: Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults workshop

Community Legal Centres Queensland

Sensitivity warning



Please be aware the following content contains reference to accounts of abuse and sexual abuse which may be distressing for some people.

For support, please contact 000, Lifeline 13 11 14 or Blue Knot Foundation 1300 657 380.

Overview



- Understanding safeguarding as a system
- Culture led safeguarding
- Understanding context specific risk
- Governing for Safety

But first...



A story



Understanding safeguarding as a system

Defining safeguarding



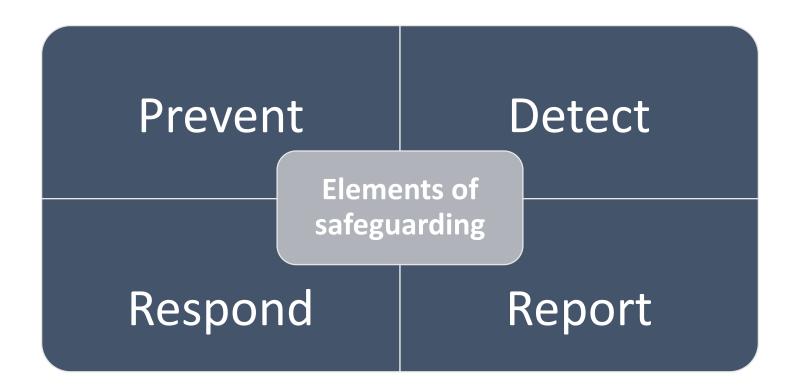
Protecting children and vulnerable adults from the risk of violence, abuse and sexual abuse, exploitation and neglect

Internal risk (within the organisational context) + external risk (familial or extracurricular)

Every member of staff/volunteer/leader/board member has a role in preventing, recognising and reporting abuse

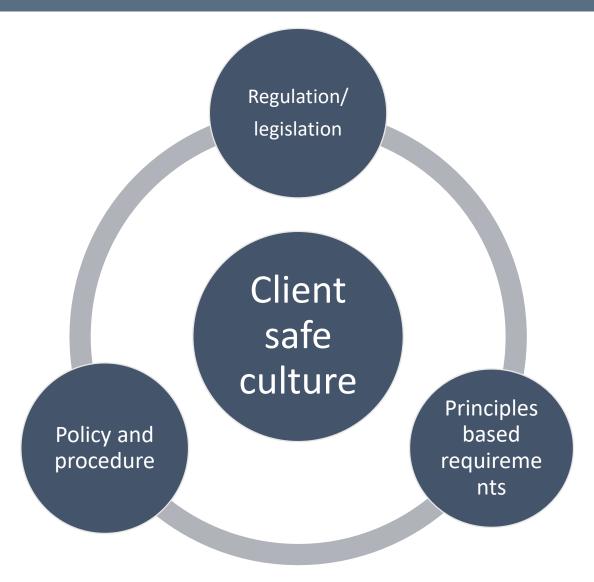
The elements of safeguarding





The requirements of safeguarding





Regulation /legislation



Human Services Quality Framework NDIS Quality & Safeguards

National Standards for Mental Health

DFV Practice Standards

ACNC Governance Standards

Child Protection Act 1999 and Regulation

Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and Regulation

Criminal Code Act 1899

Civil Liability Act 2003



National Child Safe Principles





Culture led safeguarding

How do we do safeguarding well?



But there is another way – culture led safeguarding

"This is the way we do things here"

And by taking care of our culture, compliance takes care of itself

The four Building Blocks







Reflection questions



What are we currently doing well in safeguarding?

Where do we need to improve our safeguarding?

Are we strong in each of the building blocks?

What could I do this week that will improve safeguarding in my work area?



Understanding context specific risks

Context specific abuse risks



BB3: ENVIRONMENTS



Our environments are safe and welcoming for our clients and here is how we go about that:

- We know what the safety risks are in the environments we work in and for the clients we work with and we will eliminate these risks as much as possible
- We make our physical spaces safe.
- We make our online spaces safe.
- We make our spaces warm and welcoming for our clients and their supporters

- 1. Where are there relationships of trust?
- 2. What are the vulnerabilities of the clients?
- 3. What are your physical environment risks?
- 4. What are your online environment risks?

Reflection questions



- •Do we understand our context specific risks?
- How will we embed regular meaningful risk assessment and mitigation?
- Do the risk assessment questions make me think of risks we haven't covered off?

What does this mean for legal assistance workers?



- Vulnerabilities knowledge and exploration of those vulnerabilities as part of service provided
- Access to personal and sensitive information
- Power differential reliance
- Formation of trusting relationships
- Confidentiality and privacy
- Engagement with other service providers
- Would concerning behaviours be recognised?



Governing for safety – the role of the Board in safeguarding

Board member responsibilities



Safeguarding responsibilities of organisations working with children

COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS



- United Nations
 convention of the rights of the child
- Moral/ethical obligations
 - · Reputation

- · Organisation governing document
- Directors duties
- · ACNC governance standards
- Insurance





- · Civil liability
- · Criminal liability
- · Working with children/reportable conduct regimes
- National/state based principles for child safe organisations

Universal working with children requirements



- Regulatory frameworks/licensing/ accreditation
- Contractual requirements
- · Industry standards
- Industry specific legislation e.g. Child Protection Act 1999, Education legislation

Service/activity specific



Board response...



Safeguarding responsibilities of boards and management committees working with children

COMMUNITY Driving culture Policy and procedure Organisation governing document EXPECTATIONS Appointment of the CEO Setting strategy Directors duties Directors Managing risk Stakeholder Aligned to · ACNC governance standards duties Financial management accountability safeguarding Insurance · Monitoring performance · Managing its own United Compliance performance Nations convention of Civil liability the rights of · Criminal liability the child **Universal** working What is "reasonable"? · Working with children/reportable conduct regimes with children requirements · Understanding and managing Moral/ethical · National/state based principles for child safe obligations context specific risk organisations Reputation · Regulatory frameworks/licensing/ accreditation · Contractual requirements Service/activity specific Compliance Industry standards · Industry specific legislation e.g. Child Oversight/monitoring of systems Protection Act 1999, Education legislation

Reflection questions



- Are we as a Board demonstrating leadership in safeguarding?
 - What are we doing well in safeguarding?
 - Where do we need to improve our safeguarding?
- •Are we strong in each of the building blocks?



Questions

sarah.lim@bbsafe.com.au www.bbsafe.com.au