



## MEMORANDUM

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To: **AFL Victoria League and Regions**

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Cc: **AFL Victoria Team**

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From: **John O'Donohue – Community Football Manager**

Date: **26 June 2022**

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Re: **Safeguarding Children Resources and Policy**

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As previously advised, from July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, legislative requirements for safeguarding children and young people (Child Safe Standards) are changing. This directly affects all sports, leagues, associations and clubs.

To support the transition to new Child Safe Standards AFL Victoria has been developing and delivering a range of educational assets to assist clubs and their volunteers in preparation for the pending changes with a series of online webinars and resources. The recorded webinars are designed to help clubs and their members understand what their responsibilities are in relation to safeguarding children and young people.

To access these education webinars and other Safeguarding Children resources please click [HERE](#)

The Child Safe Standards place a clear legal duty on organisations to take steps to minimise the risk of child abuse, perpetrated by organisational representatives with onus being on the organisation to prove that it took reasonable precautions to safeguard children and young people.

To support clubs and association to understand their responsibilities, AFL Victoria are providing the attached:

- Templated Club Child Safety Policy for adoption. Whilst clubs and association may develop their own, adoption of the provided template is recommended.
- A one page, Child Safety Declaration which can be used to clearly articulate the policies and procedures which are applied in practice by clubs and associations.

The significant legislative change and requirement on clubs and association volunteers from July 1<sup>st</sup> has been broadly communicated however, it is appreciated that there will be some clubs unaware and therefore, AFL Victoria will run an awareness campaign over social media in the coming weeks which Leagues and Regions are encouraged to share to minimise risks of non-compliance.

It is requested that each League and Region please ensure that your respective clubs are aware of the impending changes and available assets. To support the messaging, we strongly recommend engaging the Volunteer Support Officer workforce who will play a critical role in communicating and supporting clubs becoming compliant with the legislative requirements.

In delivering an awareness campaign over the coming weeks, AFL Victoria have created social media assets which are attached and maybe used by Leagues and Regions or reshared from AFL Victoria platforms wherever deemed appropriate.

**The communications schedule for the Child Safety Standards Awareness campaign is as follows:**

### **AFL Victoria**

AFL House 140 Harbour Esplanade Docklands Victoria 3008

All correspondence to GPO Box 1449 Melbourne Victoria 3001 Australia [www.afl.com.au](http://www.afl.com.au)

Date	Message	Objective	Platforms	Target Segment
Week 1 June 27	Safeguarding Children Are You Ready?	To remind all regions, leagues, clubs of their legal obligations under the Standards	AFL Vic Website Facebook Instagram	Regions, Leagues, Clubs and Umpire associations Player and Parents/Guardians
Week 2 July 4th	Safeguarding Children Are You as a committee understanding the role and risk?	To remind all regions, leagues, clubs (from a governance perspective) what they should do for each of the Standards to achieve compliance and identify key resources to support them in implementing documentation.		
Week3 July 11th	Safeguarding Children Are You a Safe Footy Club?	To remind all regions, leagues, clubs what their staff/volunteers should do to create a safe environment for children and young people and identify resources and education webinars to support their staff/volunteers.		

The following wording and link should be used to accompany the attached graphic tiles.

***From 1 July 2022, the Safeguarding Children and Young People legislative requirements for sports, leagues and associations, and clubs are changing.***

***To help clubs and their members understand the new policies, AFL Victoria has created a range of educational resources that can be accessed online.***

***Ensure your club and members are aware of the new changes.***

***ACCESS THE RESOURCES: <https://www.afl.com.au/clubhelp/safeguarding-children/webinars>***

A further online Webinar will be available in late August which will capture all aspects of the policy and any gaps identified based on feedback received which clubs will be encouraged to attend. Thanks in advance for your cooperation in communicating the messaging around Safeguarding Children and Young People.

Regards



**John O'Donohue  
AFL Victoria  
Community Football Manager**