

Information for our partners about our Commitment to Safeguarding Children and Young People from Abuse and Neglect



everyone's family

The Smith Family asks our partners and supporters to join with us in our commitment to safeguard children and young people from abuse and neglect. This means that in all the programs and activities we undertake together, we provide safe environments for children and young people and always act in their best interests. We comply with all state and territory child protection legislation, regulation and policy and report child safety concerns to child protection authorities.

What does this mean for our partnership?

1. We work together to create opportunities for young Australians in need by providing long-term support for their participation in education.
2. The Smith Family consults with young people about planned programs and activities to ensure we are working in partnership with them too. Children and young people feel more confident to report concerns about their safety when they know their opinions are valued and they can trust the adults around them.
3. The Smith Family has clear, documented, informed consent processes whenever children, young people and their families attend events and participate in media activities and communications.
4. The Smith Family never uses the personal and sensitive information – including images – of children, young people and families in any communications and media without their explicit informed consent and we require that our partners take the same approach with their media and communications. In accordance with The Smith Family's Media and Photography Agreement and Consent Form, The Smith Family will manage the seeking of appropriate approvals from children, young people and their families to enable use by our partners.
5. In addition, when new media content is created that specifically features our students or families, The Smith Family ensures that featured students or families see this content, and can have a copy of it, before it is used.
6. The Smith Family and our partners are professional and respectful in our social and physical contact with children and young people. We never touch people inappropriately, and we don't engage in conversations or interactions that could imply anything other than a work-related relationship with children, young people and families.
7. The Smith Family and our partners never contact or communicate with children, young people and families supported by The Smith Family outside of agreed programs and activities.
8. A child or young person is never alone with an adult other than a family member/carer.
9. Children and young people are supervised by adults who have a Working with Children (WWC) Clearance and have completed The Smith Family's Child Protection training. We use the following best practice supervision ratios: a. One WWC cleared and The Smith Family trained adult for every five children aged under 8 years; and b. One WWC cleared and The Smith Family trained adult for every eight children aged 8 years and over.
10. Volunteers who engage routinely with children and young people and/or their personal and sensitive information, such as volunteer mentors, have a Working with Children Clearance and other suitability and reference checks conducted by our Volunteering team.

Thank you for making safeguarding children and young people from abuse and neglect a priority in your organisation. Together, we are working towards a better future for young Australians in need, by providing long-term support for their participation in education.