

2015 PLAY YOUR PART AWARDS FOR INSPIRING PREVENTION INITIATIVES WESTERN AUSTRALIA

To Anglicare WA

For Child Safe Organisation Strategy

Anglicare WA (AWA) is committed to a child safe organisation strategy and have built a child safe culture within their organisation. They are leading the sector in this area and working to assist other organisations to become child safe and friendly.

The organisation's child safe strategy included a review and update of all their child protection policies by an external expert and training of all 450 staff and 350 volunteers in how to recognise child abuse and respond appropriately.

Tunya Petridis, Children's Consultant, Anglicare WA said that building a culture that is safe for children and promotes their wellbeing is an ongoing process.

"We designed our own Charter of Children's Rights based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in a beautiful poster format with native Western Australian animals," she said.

At Anglicare WA, we believe all children need: good food to eat, a home and people who love you and your own beliefs and traditions, are some examples of the Charter's messages.

Anglicare WA also produced resources including a children's book: "*You Have the Right to...*" and video featuring children talking about their safety and rights, with the key message: "not only do we have to listen to children but we have to believe what they say and act on it." Available from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gn0r9UvhCE>

The poster is displayed in offices across the state with resources to encourage children to come forward and speak with staff if they have any safety concerns.

An internal child safe organisation working group is leading initiatives in recruitment and human resources, with materials to include at staff inductions such as child safety policies, including information on how to build a child friendly culture and deter would be offenders, ways to encourage children's participation and investigate complaints.

Practices were reviewed and updated to ensure that a child safe 'firewall' was built to safeguard foster children. Carer recruitment goes beyond funding body requirements to provide best practice selection processes. There is intensive supervision and coaching of

teams working with children in foster care. These practices have improved the wellbeing of this very vulnerable group of children and young people some with extensive histories of abuse, neglect and trauma.

Anglicare WA provides accessible information about the Royal Commission to a large range of organisations, including through a sector wide reference group set up to canvas child safety issues identified through this process, while also providing a free support service to assist anyone affected by the Royal Commission.

The non profit organisation hosts events to train organisations on how to prevent child sexual abuse in the workplace, such as coordinating a statewide forum that included Professor Stephen Smallbone a leading expert in this field, in an extended two day workshop and a sundowner event with the support of the WA Commissioner for Children and Young People and Curtin University, which also included Professor Stephen Smallbone.