



Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

We are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Safety and wellbeing are the foundations of our decision-making, support and care for children and young people.

We have zero tolerance for child abuse, harm and neglect, we take every concern and allegation seriously and investigate any allegations of reportable conduct relating to an Ability Options person. We are committed to providing a child-safe environment where children and young people feel safe and are safe, and their voices are heard in decisions that affect their lives.

We pay attention to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with disability.

Each of us, including staff, board, management, volunteers, contractors, and families of children have a responsibility to understand the important and specific role we play individually and collectively to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.

Ability Options will:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety.
2. Promote a safe environment, including online for children and young people who receive services from Ability Options.
3. Value and empower children to participate in decisions that affect their lives and involve them when we make decisions.
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child-rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount.
5. Value the input of families and carers and communicate with them regularly.
6. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children.
7. Maintain a rigorous recruitment and selection process that complies with relevant worker checks.
8. Provide training and development for employees in the recognition and reporting of suspected risk of harm and in the implementation of child protection policy and processes.
9. Ensure children know who to talk to if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues.
10. Follow mandatory reporting requirements for children or young people suspected to be at risk of significant harm.
11. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk.

A blue ink signature of Julia Squire, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'S'.

Julia Squire
Chief Executive Officer

A black ink signature of Dr Robert Lang, written in a cursive style.

Dr Robert Lang
Chair