

# Child Safety and Wellbeing Framework



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# Purpose statement

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The Child Safety and Wellbeing Framework outlines the many ways in which VIT ensures child safety and wellbeing, including taking into account community expectations across its functions.

The Framework provides

- an overview of VIT's various functions and activities in relation to ensuring child safety and wellbeing
- an outline of the key principles that underpin VIT's approach to ensuring child safety and wellbeing
- an outline of how we interact with coregulators and are responsive to initiatives to promote and ensure child safety including at-risk groups
- an opportunity to identify areas of need and improvement to further enhance consideration of child safety and wellbeing.

In all of VIT's work, consideration is given to the specific vulnerabilities of children and young people, and a culturally and trauma informed approach is used when interacting with stakeholders.



# The framework

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View the expanded framework graphic [here](#).

# Key principles



## Protection

The VIT is committed to protecting children and young people by utilising its regulatory functions and establishing clear processes to manage matters of suitability and misconduct.

The VIT enacts protective actions via

- [legislation](#)
- [teacher registration](#)
- [complaints / notifications processes](#)
- [assessments and investigations](#)
- responsive risk management
- [educative outreach](#)
- monitoring / compliance
- [policies](#)
- the development of a suitability framework.



## Transparency / accountability

The VIT is committed to being accountable for its actions related to child safety and wellbeing and being transparent in its processes and decision making.

The VIT ensures transparency via

- [the register of teachers](#)
- the publication of processes / actions
- [the Register of Disciplinary Decisions](#)
- public hearings
- [the Register of Disciplinary Action \(RODA\)](#)
- periodic reporting
- being accountable to the Minister for Education
- a representative [Council and Committees](#)
- model litigant guidelines.



The VIT recognises that ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a shared responsibility with the community and engages with various stakeholders who help uphold it.

The VIT engages with

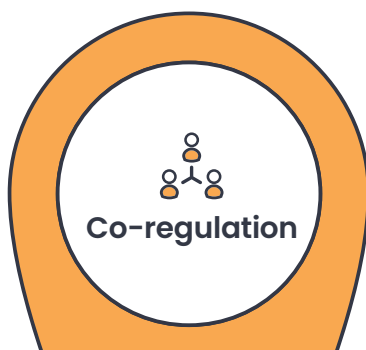
- teachers / early childhood teachers
- pre-service teachers
- parent / carer representative bodies
- teacher unions
- initial teacher education (ITE) providers
- student representative bodies
- employers
- medical practitioners
- International Forum of Teacher Regulatory Authorities / Australasian Teacher Regulatory Authorities.



The VIT is committed to protecting children and young people from harm by taking appropriate regulatory action and using a risk-based approach when dealing with suitability and misconduct matters.

The VIT takes regulatory action in the form of

- educative letters
- [conditions on registration](#)
- [agreements](#)
- [suspension / interim suspension](#)
- [refusal of registration](#)
- [cancellation of registration](#)
- hearings
- prosecution.



### Co-regulation

The VIT works closely with its co-regulatory bodies to reduce administrative burden, provide clear channels of communication and take regulatory action effectively.

The VIT works alongside

- teaching regulatory bodies and associations ([ATRA](#) / other teacher regulatory authorities)
- police and court services [[Victoria Police](#) / [Australian Federal Police](#) / [Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team \(SOCIT\)](#)]
- child safety regulators [[the Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\)](#), [Working with Children Check Victoria \(WWCCV\)](#), [the Victorian Disability Worker Commission \(VDWC\)](#)]
- employers (schools / early childhood services)
- administrative regulators [[the Quality Assessment and Regulation Division \(QARD\)](#) / [the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority \(VRQA\)](#) / [the Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority \(ACECQA\)](#)].



### Prevention

The VIT is committed to preventing harm to children and young people by taking a proactive approach to its work in setting standards, educating stakeholders and working with co-regulators.

The VIT prevents harm to children and young people by

- establishing [registration requirements](#)
- setting professional expectations [[Codes of Conduct & Ethics](#) / Australian Professional Standards for Teaching (APST)]
- deterrence ([RODA](#) / [publication of disciplinary decisions](#))
- co-regulating
- [accrediting ITE programs](#)
- providing advice & support to teachers / employers
- providing outreach / educative programs
- providing educative resources and communications
- establishing a [professional learning framework](#)
- engaging with stakeholders
- information sharing arrangements
- proactive regulation (using data to identify trends).



The VIT is committed to continuous improvement and responds to feedback from the community and stakeholders to improve its processes and ensure child safety and wellbeing.

The VIT undertakes continuous improvement through

- being responsive to stakeholder feedback (reviews / surveys / audits)
- revising the Codes of Conduct and Ethics
- advocating for legislative change
- ongoing reviews of policies / procedures
- undertaking strategic planning
- training / knowledge sharing
- data informed practice
- system updates.



The VIT considers the needs and wellbeing of children and young people, and their families in its work.

The VIT ensures that interactions are considerate of the individual circumstances and specific vulnerabilities of an individual by utilising

- therapeutic jurisprudence
- a trauma-informed approach
- a culturally-informed approach.



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