

Contact Information

We will support you



If you have any questions about this information, contact:

Child Safety Officer
PO Box 698
Ringwood VIC 3134
Email: childsafetyofficer@edvos.org.au

If you live in the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne, contact **EDVOS** for more information about how we can support you:

Phone: (03) 9259 4200
Fax: (03) 9259 4299
Email: edvos@edvos.org.au
Website: edvos.org.au
Hours: 9am-8pm Weekdays
9am-5pm Saturdays



We are experienced in supporting people from diverse cultural backgrounds and can offer a free interpreter service.

- ✧ You are not alone
- ✧ Help is available
- ✧ Someone else's choice to use violence is NEVER your fault
- ✧ It is your fundamental right to live free from violence



EDVOS acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this land and recognise their continuing connection to land, water and community. EDVOS pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



EDVOS acknowledges people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) communities, their children, pets and other animals, who are responding to family violence in the community.

EDVOS respects all people who are responding to family violence, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, age and ability.

EDVOS is a child-focused and child safe organisation.



EDVOS acknowledges funding from the Victorian Government.

Child Safety

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 edvos.org.au  [@edvosFV](https://www.facebook.com/edvosFV)

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EDVOS Commitment to Child Safety

EDVOS is committed to creating and maintaining a child safe organisation where protecting children and preventing and responding to child abuse is embedded in the everyday thinking and practice of its workforce.

- EDVOS is committed to child safety. We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers.
- EDVOS is committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.
- EDVOS has zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our robust policies and procedures.
- EDVOS has legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which are followed rigorously.
- EDVOS is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.
- EDVOS has robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers.
- EDVOS is committed to regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks.

EDVOS is committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

EDVOS will abide by specific procedures and will have trainings in place to support the leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these policy commitments.

EDVOS Child Safety Code of Conduct

Everyone working at EDVOS is responsible for the care and protection of children and reporting information about child abuse. The **EDVOS Child Safety-Code of Conduct** outlines how staff, students and volunteers will behave when working with and around children and must be agreed and signed by everyone.

We have risk management strategies in place to identify, assess and take steps to minimise child safety risks and concerns. We ensure that our systems protect children from abuse, and will take all allegations and concerns very seriously and respond to them consistently in line with the organisation's policies and procedures. We also have staff appointed to support employees and to oversee, monitor and review all practices and policies around child safety.

Child Safe Standards and Reporting Obligations

Under Failure to Disclose Legislation introduced in Victoria in 2014, all adults are required to report to police:

- any reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed;
- by another adult (over 18),
- against a child under the age of 16;
- exceptions do apply

The simple rule is: if you have a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed by an adult against a child in Victoria, you must report that belief to Victoria Police.

The **Failure to Disclose Legislation** does not change **Mandatory Reporting Obligations** for organisations.

What do Mandatory Reporting Obligations mean in the context of family violence at EDVOS

When a client has disclosed a crime against a child, EDVOS has a legal obligation to report to Victoria Police or Child Protection. The intent of this report is to protect children, not to further victimise or impact the safety of the woman experiencing family violence. All clients will be advised of their own obligation to report, as well as that of the organisation. The suspected crime must be reported, even if parents are acting protectively. EDVOS will work with the woman, Child Protection and Victoria Police to ensure the rights of the child are paramount, whilst also not impacting the safety of the woman experiencing family violence.