

Commission for Children and Young People's compliance approach for the commencement of the new Child Safe Standards

On **1 July 2022**, Victoria's new Child Safe Standards (Standards) will commence, and the old Standards will no longer be in force.¹

The new Standards provide greater guidance to assist organisations to improve children's safety, while still allowing flexibility. Each Standard includes minimum requirements that organisations must meet. The Commission has also provided Compliance Indicators to help organisations know what documents and actions the Commission will look for when assessing compliance. This makes it clearer for organisations what they need to do to implement the new Standards.

The work organisations have already done to comply with the previous Standards will help them to meet the new Standards. However, in some areas, organisations will need to change or develop their current child safety policies, practices and culture to comply with the new Standards.²

What organisations can expect from the Commission after 1 July 2022

From 1 July 2022 the Commission will begin regulating compliance with the new Standards and compliance with the previous Standards will no longer be assessed.

We recognise that most organisations will need to make some changes, and some organisations may have substantial work ahead of them to comply with the new Standards. For some organisations, it may take time and effort to get things right and they may not have fully completed implementation by **1 July 2022**.

The Commission will apply its [Regulatory Approach](#) when supporting and enforcing compliance with the new Standards.³ This means that if we identify that an organisation is not complying with the new Standards, we will take a graduated approach that considers the seriousness of our concerns, and risks to children, as well as an organisation's willingness to comply with the law.

The Commission will initially focus on informing and educating organisations about their obligations under the new Standards. We will prioritise providing guidance and support to organisations who are yet to fully comply with the new Standards. However, there may be circumstances where the Commission takes other action to support an organisation's compliance with the new Standards, such as where serious safety risks to children and young people are identified.

The [Child Wellbeing and Safety \(Child Safe Standards Compliance and Enforcement\) Amendment Act 2021](#) is due to commence from **January 2023**. Among other changes, this will provide the Commission with more powers to monitor and enforce compliance with the new Standards. From **January 2023**, the Commission will also expect organisations to have more comprehensively implemented the new Standards.

Compliance with the Standards is not a 'set and forget' exercise. Organisations are required to continually monitor and improve their approach to keeping children and young people safe. We will therefore work with organisations to continually build a greater understanding of what

¹ <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/news/new-child-safe-standards-start-in-victoria-on-1-july-2022-to-better-protect-children/>

² <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/New-CSS/Whats-changing-comparison-of-current-and-new-Child-Safe-Standards.pdf>

³ <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/Regulatory-Approach/CCYP-Regulatory-approach-Final.pdf>



compliance with the new Standards looks like. We will also provide ongoing information and support to organisations to keep improving safety outcomes for Victoria's children and young people.

There are several co-regulators for the Standards in Victoria, and organisations may have an additional regulator as well as the Commission.⁴ Some have issued specific guidance for the sectors and organisations they regulate about compliance with the Standards.

Where to get help

For further information about the Child Safe Standards or to talk through issues of concern:

-  Telephone us on: 1300 782 978 or (03) 8601 5281
-  Email us at: contact@ccyp.vic.gov.au
-  Visit the Commission's website: www.ccyp.vic.gov.au

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 and ask them to contact the Commission for Children and Young People on 03 8601 5281.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service. For more information, visit: www.relayservice.gov.au

⁴ <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/enforcing-the-standards/#TOC-3>