



# SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

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**ANNUAL SUMMARY  
2022**



# WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION?

## **Safeguarding**

A preventative approach to child protection by minimising or eliminating harm to a child.

## **Child Protection**

A reactive approach to address suspected or known cases of abuse and neglect.



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ARE DEDICATED TO  
THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT!



# OUR PURPOSE

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The team at Safeguarding Children are passionate advocates for the safety and wellbeing of children. Too many children in Aotearoa NZ experience abuse and neglect. We are driven to change this through education and sharing our expertise in safeguarding and child protection. The more people we can bring along on this journey, the better our chance of achieving our vision:

**The children and young people of Aotearoa New Zealand are safe from abuse and neglect.**

Current challenges facing our country, such as the Covid pandemic and Cost of Living crisis, will unfortunately see an increase in vulnerability within communities and therefore increased risk of child abuse and neglect. This strengthens the need for any individual or organisation caring for or working with children to invest in safeguarding and child protection measures. These measures need to be viewed not as a tick box exercise but a way to support an environment in which children can thrive and be the best possible version of themselves. Safeguarding and child protection needs to be made common practice and normalised. Children are entitled to live a life free of abuse and neglect and those caring for them should set themselves up with all the tools needed to ensure this is possible.

*Together, let's make a difference!*





## **Tēnā koe e hoa,**

Safeguarding Children has once again had a productive and rewarding year. At the heart of everything we do is our belief that child abuse is preventable, not inevitable. Every one of us has a role to play in keeping children safe. Preventing abuse is the responsibility of us all. Children rely on the adults around them to keep them safe which is why we are committed to the creation of both child-safe organisations and communities.

We are lucky to have a professional researcher as part of our team who captures the lived experiences of our frontline workers as they strive to prevent, recognise and respond to child abuse. Their voices not only drive our work but also allow us to measure the impact of it. It is humbling and empowering to see the positive difference working together makes.

I am incredibly proud of the multi-talented and dedicated team at Safeguarding Children. It is a privilege for me to lead the people I have around me; they inspire me every day. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than seeing them grow in their individual roles, each courageously contributing to this important mahi. None of this would be possible without the support of our skilled voluntary board. I sometimes forget they are volunteers as their constant dedication and commitment never waivers. They are our touchstone and crucial to Safeguarding Children's success.

One of our core values is building and nurturing relationships. It is through our established and new relationships that we are building capability to keep children safe. Thank you to every one of you who has either joined us or continued to support us on our journey in 2022.

## **Kia kotahi te hoe o tō tatou waka**

*"Let us paddle our waka as one"*

*Willow Duffy*  
Safeguarding Children CEO



# REFLECTING ON 2022

It has been another busy year for the team at Safeguarding Children. Here is a snapshot of some exciting developments which have taken place.

- Earlier this year, our team spent time exploring and formalising our values in writing. Although already in practice, having them in visual form and readily available reminds us to continually apply these to our work.



- In June, we switched to a new Learning Management System which hosts our online courses. This move has enabled us to cater for more learners, improve user experience and allow for re-certification in courses previously completed. The process of moving to a new system was managed entirely in-house, a big cost saving and possible due to Safeguarding Children's investment in staff with a diverse skill set.
- Continuing work with key players in the sports sector has seen strong growth in safeguarding and child protection education in this area. Organisations are expanding their training to include youth coaches and Safeguarding Children is now working alongside a sporting agency with reach across the Pacific!
- Department of Internal Affairs have launched their new **Keep It Real Online** website. Links to our courses and resources are included on this site.

# REFLECTING ON 2022

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- Through our strong working relationship with Empowerment Trust, we were able to recruit 2 new facilitators to deliver safeguarding and child protection training in Christchurch and Auckland. Extending our education reach to better help children.
- International research, inquiries and case learning demonstrates children are better supported and cared for when they can speak up freely, are listened to and have the opportunity to share their experiences. Mind of My Own creates accessible apps, providing a digital solution to give voice to children's lived experience and be heard. Safeguarding Children is excited to be partnered with Mind of My Own, as both organisations recognise the essential role the voice of children has to play in effective safeguarding.
- A Request for Proposal (RFP) to be an approved provider for Strengthening Early Learning Opportunities (SELO) was submitted in March. Our RFP was successful, meaning Safeguarding Children is now a recognised supplier for assisting early learning services with meeting the Ministry of Education's licensing requirements.
- Working alongside numerous government agencies and crown entities, Safeguarding Children continue to educate, guide and support organisations and communities to safeguard children.
- Our Safeguarding Children team have enjoyed working in partnership with local iwi to weave te ao Māori into our safeguarding principles and teaching.
- We are strengthening the safeguarding capability of our local community through education and training across a range of sectors within Nelson. As an example, members of our Primary Health Organisation (PHO) have increased their safeguarding and child protection knowledge and skills through training received this year!



*Safeguarding Children, a little charity  
with a BIG vision!*

# EDUCATION



**Safeguarding Children strongly believe that child abuse and neglect is preventable through education and implementation of safeguarding measures. We want to help all those caring for and working with tamariki to achieve this goal.**

We have a flexible and adaptable training approach, recognising that one size does not always fit all. We are continually reviewing our course material, looking for opportunities to ensure we respond to the diverse needs of all those caring for and working with children. The more people we can share our safeguarding and child protection expertise with, the better for our children.

## What's NEW in 22?

### Face to Face & Webinars

Safeguarding Children in Emergencies  
Child Protection Policy and Procedures  
(Webinar only)  
Code of Conduct (Webinar only)  
Child-Safe Organisations  
Keeping Sports Safe for Youth Sports Coaches  
Keeping Children Safe for Youth Leaders

### eLearning

Safeguarding & Child Protection for the ECE Sector  
Safeguarding & Child Protection for Primary,  
Intermediate & Secondary Schools

## Not just a training provider...

This year has seen increased demand from organisations wanting help and guidance with in-house safeguarding and child protection.

Safeguarding Children can:

- help ensure compliance with legislation
- assist with policy and procedure development
- audit existing child safe systems
- provide guidance regarding child safety concerns

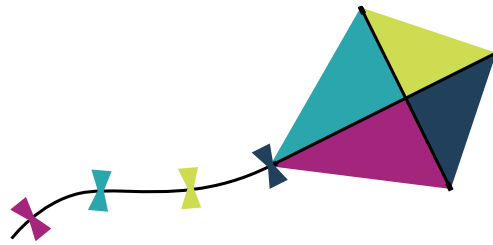
# 2022

## Training Statistics

- 10756** Total # of courses completed by individuals
- 9392** Courses completed by eLearners
- 48** Webinars delivered
- 25** Face to Face delivered
- 1364** Attended Webinar and/or Face to Face training
- 723** Free seats made available through philanthropic funding



# ADVOCACY



**Safeguarding Children are not afraid to speak up and drive positive change for our tamariki and rangatahi's safety and wellbeing. We engage in and support activities which help strengthen safeguarding and child protection across Aotearoa New Zealand.**

## What have we been up to?

- Safeguarding Children's CEO, Willow Duffy, is a member of the Nelson Oranga Tamariki Care and Protection Panel and Gymnastics New Zealand Steering Committee. She regularly contributes to Family Violence and Sexual Violence networks and steering groups.
- A strong vocal presence in the media regarding the need to include mandatory reporting and training in legislation for anyone working with children in order to prevent abuse.
- Provided advice and supported Ginny Anderson's (MP) effort to progress change in the Crimes (Child Exploitation Offences) Amendment Bill to better address the crime of grooming children. This piece of legislation is currently in its third reading and Safeguarding Children are eagerly awaiting it to be passed in 2023. Watch this space!
- Contributed to 2 select committees on Whistle Blowing and Grooming legislation.
- Submitted evidence as an expert witness in the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.
- In April 2022, Willow presented at the Australian National Strengthening Child Safe Organisations Conference.

## Child Safeguarding Week - September

The theme for this year's awareness week was Child Safe Organisations, focussing on making sure the places children go are safe. We were thrilled with the increased engagement from last year and will continue with this initiative in 2023.



*Proud to be working with*

 **Empowerment Trust**



# Thank You

The Safeguarding Children team are passionate in our belief that **together we can make a difference** in preventing child abuse and neglect. We recognise that our charity would not exist without the valuable support we receive from our community, funders, clients and other child advocates. Thank you for being part of our safeguarding and child protection journey!



*Together*

let's make a

**difference!**

