
Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

Canine Comprehension has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Every employee at Canine Comprehension (including staff, contractors and volunteers) has a responsibility to understand the role they have to ensure the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people that we work or have contact with.

Canine Comprehension is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Canine Comprehensions recruitment process is a comprehensive screening process which includes:

- Interviewing the applicant to ensure that they are suitable for child connected work
- Testing their therapy dog to make sure it adheres to current industry obedience expectations
- Obtaining and verifying currency of either VIT registration or a Victorian Working With Children Check
- Verifying the applicant's identification
- Verifying through at least 2 reference checks suitability for child connected work

Each Canine Comprehension employee must read and sign that they understand the Canine Comprehension Code of Conduct.

As Canine Comprehension employees work in schools and other environments where there will be an organisational child safe policy, child safe code of conduct and reporting process, Canine Comprehension employees must also make themselves aware of the organisation's child safe practices. The Code of Conduct includes that the employee will read, understand and follow the organisations specific Child safe practices prior to commencing work at an organisation.

If there is an instance where the organisation's child safe practices are not consistent with our practice, upon consideration and consultation with the other agency the practice which best ensures the risk of child abuse is appropriately managed will be followed and communicated to all involved.