



CHILD SAFE POLICY

We want children who participate in Street Library Australia’s events to have a safe and happy experience. We support and respect children and their families as well as our paid staff and volunteers.

Title	<i>Street Library Australia - Child Safe Policy</i>
Introduction	This policy guides paid staff and volunteer Street Librarians on what to do when interacting with children. The policy focuses on how we can build and maintain a child safe environment which is inclusive, transparent and promotes children’s participation.
Children’s Participation	<p>Our organisation supports the active participation of children in the events and activities that we offer. We recognise children have a right to provide feedback or raise concerns.</p> <p>We listen to their views, respect what they say and involve them when we make decisions, especially about matters that will directly affect them.</p> <p>All children under the age of 15 years must be accompanied by a Parent or Guardian at all events related to Street Library organisation or volunteer Street Librarians</p>
Paid Staff and Volunteer Street Librarian Code of Conduct	<p>Volunteer Street Librarians are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) confirm attendance by an adult or guardian of any child under 15 year at the commencement of any event; and (b) ensure they are not alone in an area separate from other event participants when interacting with any children under the age of 18 years.

<p>Recruitment: Paid Staff</p>	<p>Our organisation will maintain a consistent screening and selection process. All paid staff must provide a current Working With Children Check.</p>
<p>Complaints Management and Reporting</p>	<p>Members of the public may raise concerns and bring complaints to Street Library Australia directly by contacting our Child Safety Support Officer/General Manager, Mel Lake on mel@streetlibrary.org.au or Ph. 02 8405 7942.</p> <p>Any concerns about actual or possible risk of significant harm to a child can be reported to the NSW Government using the Office of the Children’s Guardian Reportable Conduct Scheme.</p>
<p>Support for volunteer Street Librarians</p>	<p>All new volunteer Street Librarians will receive a copy of these child safe policies and procedures. Queries on the policies are to be directed to Child Safety Support Officer/General Manager, Mel Lake on mel@streetlibrary.org.au or Ph. 02 8405 7942.</p> <p>Child safety is a standing agenda item at meetings and volunteer Street Librarians are encouraged to ask questions and contribute to the continuous improvement of child safe policies, procedures and practices in the workplace.</p>
<p>Communication</p>	<p>Street Library Australia will hold information sessions for paid staff and volunteer Street Librarians as needed.</p> <p>Our policy will be discussed during induction sessions for all new paid staff and volunteer Street Librarians.</p> <p>Children and parents joining our events will receive a copy of this document upon registration.</p>
<p>Review</p>	<p>The policy and guidelines will be reviewed every two years and incorporate comments and suggestions from our range of stakeholders (including workers, children and families).</p> <p>Our first review will take place on 1/10/2025.</p>