



# Child Safe Standards Implementation Feedback Project – School Focus

## FAQs

### **What does the feedback project involve?**

The implementation feedback project will be undertaken over three phases during Terms 2 and 3. In phase one, the VRQA will look at where schools began with implementation by looking at the child safe standards self-assessment and action plans all schools completed in 2016. This information will provide us with a base line for the project.

In phase two, we will look at how child safety is promoted within your school community and which key documents are made publicly available on your school website. This will help us to gain a sense of where schools are now.

In phase three, a VRQA contractor will contact the school to invite you to participate in a 20-minute telephone conversation to better understand the experiences of individual schools, and gain insight into the different approaches to implementing the child safe standards. The telephone conversation will take place at a time convenient to you or with a staff member you nominate. There may also be an opportunity to participate in a small group discussion to be facilitated by principals' associations.

We know that schools are safe places. The implementation feedback project aims to identify areas of child safety best practice that can be shared across the system to help all schools in their commitment to child safety or to help determine where to next?

The project also provides an opportunity for the VRQA to understand any obstacles schools faced in implementing the standards and where more support may be needed.

### **Why has my school been chosen?**

In total, the VRQA has invited over 200 schools to participate in the project as a representative sample chosen from the State Register. The sample takes measures to ensure representation across:

- the government, Catholic and independent sectors
- metropolitan Melbourne and rural and regional areas
- types of schools (primary, secondary and specialist).

## VRQA action



## Self-assessment and action plan

### School action

*Schools determine whether they can participate in the project at this time.*

#### Where we were...

Has my school:  
addressed all actions in the self-assessment completed last year?

#### School website

#### Where we are now...

Is my school:  
actively communicating and promoting about child safety to the school community?  
Has my school:  
made its child safety code of conduct publicly available\*?  
informed the school community about our child safety policy / commitment to child safety?  
made our procedures for responding to and reporting allegations of suspected child abuse publicly available\*?

#### Telephone conversation/focus group

#### Where we may need more support...

How is my school:  
promoting our child safety policies?  
How is my school council/board:  
working with my school to embed a culture of child safety?  
In implementing the child safe standards, what:  
have been the easiest aspects to implement?  
have been the more challenging aspects to implement?  
are the obstacles, if any, we have faced?

#### Share the project findings

#### Where to next...

The VRQA will:

- prepare a final report
- engage with key stakeholders
- share examples of good practice
- identify areas for further support which may be necessary

\* Publicly available – i.e. a copy of the document is available on the school website or the public is made aware of how to access the school's policies and procedures.