

# CHILD SAFETY



## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

RMIT University has students under the age of 18, provides child care services to children from three months to five years of age, hosts visiting children and conducts research with children and young people. As such, RMIT recognises its responsibility and is committed to child safety, protecting children from harm and being a child safe organisation.

RMIT is committed to:

- promoting and protecting the best interests of children
- safeguarding children who are undertaking RMIT programs including via e-learning, or who are engaged in RMIT online communities and forums
- the safety, participation and empowerment of all children
- preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks, including risks presented by physical and online environments
- regularly training and educating our staff and volunteers on child abuse risks
- the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

RMIT supports and respect all children, as well as our staff and volunteers. All children, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, or family or social background have equal rights to protection from abuse, harm or maltreatment.

RMIT has:

- zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously and consistently with our policies and procedures
- legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we have reasonable concern about a child's safety, or reasonably believe that a child has been abused or harmed, which we follow rigorously
- robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff and volunteers
- stringent research ethics and protocols for our staff and students who may be required to work with children as part of their research project or University supported research activity
- policies, procedures and training in place that support our leadership team, staff and volunteers to achieve these commitments.

Everyone working or studying at RMIT is responsible for the care and protection of the children within our care and reporting information about suspected child abuse or harm of children and young people. The RMIT community is aware of the Victorian Government's mandatory reporting obligations and associated legislation. Child protection is a shared responsibility between RMIT, all employees, students, workers, contractors, associates and members of the RMIT community.

**If you believe a child or young person is at immediate risk of abuse or harm call Campus Security on tel. 9925 3333 or Emergency 000.**