



# Buddhist Council of Victoria

Representing and serving the Buddhist community in Victoria

[www.bcv.org.au](http://www.bcv.org.au) | ABN 13 436 635 535 | Reg. No. A0033871C

03 May 2025

## OFFICIAL AND IMPORTANT

### **Child Safety Issues and Statement - Keeping Children Safe**

Dear friends,

I am writing to formally stress the importance of the subject matter in conjunction with the Commission for Children and Young People. **Please ensure that you distribute this letter among the leadership team of your organisation.**

Vesak and Buddha Day events bring many people together, whether at your temple or other locations. During these busy times, it's essential to stop and think about what you'll do to keep children and young people safe from harm or abuse.

The Commission for Children and Young People have tips for preventing child abuse that can help you plan a safe celebration. This will also help you meet the Child Safe Standards, which are legal requirements for faith organisations in Victoria. Here are some tips to keep children safe during celebrations:

1. Think about any **risks** that might arise with extra people visiting your temple. Decide **how you will manage** those risks during celebrations.
2. Make sure everyone visiting the temple **understands your Code of Conduct**, especially any volunteers, employees or leadership. Your Code of Conduct should set expectations about the behaviour of staff and volunteers.
3. Have **someone in charge** of child safety during ceremonies and events to make sure everyone **follows policies and procedures**.
4. Make sure everyone **knows who they can speak** to if they are worried about child safety or the behaviour of an adult towards a child. Children and young people should also know **who to speak** to if they feel unsafe. You might do this by putting up posters or flyers around your temple.

For more information, visit the [Commission for Children and Young People's website](https://www.commissionforchildrenandyoungpeople.vic.gov.au/keeping-children-safe-in-religious-organisations). [keeping children safe in religious organisations](https://www.commissionforchildrenandyoungpeople.vic.gov.au/keeping-children-safe-in-religious-organisations). Buddhist Council of Victoria <https://bcv.org.au/policy/#>.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by:  
  
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**Dinesh Iriyagolla Weerakkody LLB; PDLP**

The President

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