

# Our commitment to safeguard children and young people

At Western Health, we are guided by our commitment and responsibility to providing a safe environment for the children and young people who are involved in our services, sites and operations.

**We commit** to doing everything possible to provide an environment for children and young people that is **caring, nurturing** and **safe** and we commit to accept accountability for this.

**We commit to actively safeguard** all children and young people from:

- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Neglect
- Witnessing violence

**We commit** to requiring all of our employees and volunteers to **act to safeguard children and young people** from harm by:

- Following all legislative mandatory reporting requirements and reporting all incidents of abuse or neglect of children to the appropriate authorities
- This applies to whether that abuse is being perpetrated by Western Health personnel, or by those outside the organisation, including those from the child's family, extended family; their family's extended networks or strangers.
- We will also prioritise, recognise and support the additional vulnerabilities and needs of children and young people who are Aboriginal and or of Torres Strait Islander descent; those who are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds; children and young people who have a disability, and those who are of a diverse gender identity or sexual orientation.
- Empowering children and young people to actively participate in decisions that affect their care and wellbeing.



**Russell Harrison**

Chief Executive, Western Health