**Our Child Safe Commitment**

The Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the safety, wellbeing, healing and recovery of all children and young people who have experienced the impacts of violent crime. Recognising the unique vulnerabilities and needs of children and young people, we are dedicated to fostering an environment that is safe, promotes empowerment and participation, is supportive and trauma sensitive.

Each member of the FAS has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role that they play, individually and collectively, to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of their engagement, and every decision that they make.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and consistent with our robust policies, procedures, and legislative requirements. The FAS has legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we have concerns about a child or young person’s safety.

**Our Key Principles**

**Child-Centric Approach**

We place the needs, rights and dignity of all children and young who are victims of violent crime at the heart of our services. This means actively listening to and valuing their experiences and perspectives, ensuring their recovery and empowerment are prioritised in all our actions.

**Trauma-Informed Care**

Understanding the profound impact of trauma, our staff are trained to acknowledge and respond to trauma. We create an environment where children and young people feel safe, supported and respected, offering empathetic and non-judgemental support.

**Equal participation and Inclusion**

We embrace, respect and nurture the diversity of all children and young people. Our services are designed to be safe and enable equal participation, recognising that children and young people are not homogenous and have differing needs related to recovery and healing. Children and young people’s right to decision making is valued by the FAS and the voice of all children and young people is critical to successful engagement.

**Cultural safety for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people**

We are striving to ensure that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, and young people experience access and equity, dignity and respect in their contact with the FAS, as well as having access to culturally competent, safe and secure engagement that meet their needs, and own history.