

# Aware. Protective. Safe.

Keeping children and young people safe from sexual abuse in Queensland schools and early childhood education and care services

The Queensland Department of Education fosters child safe educational environments across the state in alignment with the *National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*.

**We are committed to:**

- ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all Queensland children and young people through safe, supportive and disciplined environments
- supporting culturally safe educational environments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- working with and supporting our partners to keep children and young people safe and well
- supporting people who have experienced sexual abuse and build their awareness of help available
- responding promptly and efficiently to allegations of harm to children and young people
- providing a child safe environment through implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

## National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

### **Aware**

Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and well-being

Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training

People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing practices

### **Protective**

Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture

Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focussed

Implementation of principles is regularly reviewed and improved

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people

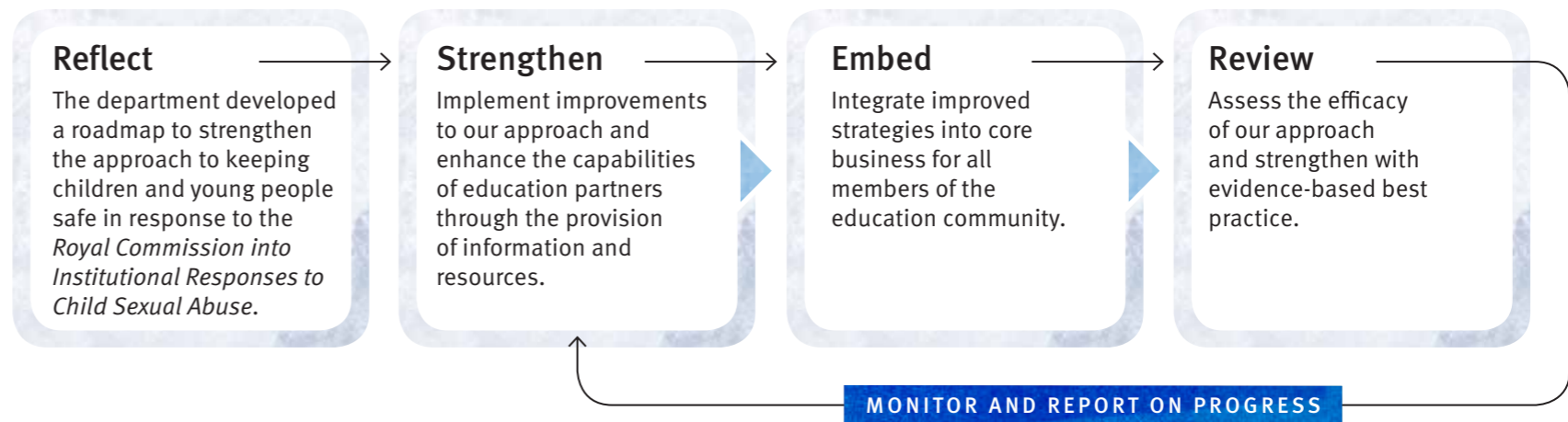
### **Safe**

Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing and limit opportunity for children and young people to be harmed

Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice

## Supported by our approach



## Our implementation values



### Involve

We will consult with children and young people in decisions that affect them and listen to what they have to say.



### Include

We will reflect equity and the diverse needs, lived experience and cultural safety of all children and young people.



### Inform

We will work with our families and communities to ensure they are aware and equipped to recognise, prevent and respond to child sexual abuse.



### Implement

We will build on actions that support the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and respond to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional responses to child sexual abuse.



### Improve

We will continuously improve our understanding and approach to preventing and responding to child sexual abuse.

## We will build on the measures already in place to keep children and young people safe from sexual abuse



### Aware

- Provide staff and volunteers with information and training to build capability and better support children's safety
- Equip families, communities and early childhood professionals with the tools and knowledge to better support children's safety
- Ensure record-keeping and information sharing arrangements across schools and between agencies are robust and nationally consistent where appropriate
- Support the development and implementation of a Reportable Conduct Scheme to oversee and monitor the handling of allegations of child sexual abuse
- Strengthen teacher registration arrangements in line with the outcomes of the National Review of Teacher Registration



### Protective

- Review complaints processes to ensure communication, mediation and desired outcomes are child-focused and child-friendly
- Employ opportunities to embed the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations into core business and everyday tasks, actions and decisions
- Assist in the design and installation of oversight mechanisms for the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations in Queensland
- Implement agreed strategies from the National Framework for Child Safety and National Strategy to Prevent Child Abuse



### Safe

- Continue to promote age-appropriate education and reporting resources for children and young people to inform them about their rights and keep them safe
- Leverage the Australian Curriculum Review to enhance opportunities for cyber-safety education with support from the Cyber-safety and Reputation Management unit
- Ensure the *Human Rights Act 2019* is considered and upheld in decision-making processes
- Uphold, review and strengthen the departmental policies, procedures and guidelines for those with diverse needs and background