



KEDEM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY OVERVIEW

Kedem is a lay led Progressive Jewish community in Melbourne established in 1995. The Kedem motto is **Joyful Jewish Life** – which reflects the emphasis on creating a vibrant inclusive community of people who come together in a spirit of joy to celebrate and engage with how to meaningfully apply Judaism in their lives. Tikkun Olum is embedded throughout all aspects of our community.

Kedem is committed to providing a child safe and child friendly environment, where all children and young people who are part of the Kedem community, or visiting, are safe and feel safe. It recognises that keeping children safe is a child's human right¹.

Kedem has zero tolerance for any abusive behavior toward children from anyone involved with the Kedem community.

To ensure this occurs and in respect of our legal and ethical responsibilities, the Kedem Board has developed a Kedem Safeguarding Children Policy which relates to the safety of children and young people up to the age of 18, and the responsibilities of all adults associated with Kedem toward children and young people. Inclusive in the policy, is a Child Safe Code of Conduct that all leadership and child related roles must commit to, and a Kedem Child Safety Procedures Document for responding to child safety concerns and allegations of abuse. All are available on the Kedem website and are available to Kedem members.

Protecting children is everyone's responsibility and Kedem encourages all people to raise concerns should they suspect the safety of a child is at risk. The Safeguarding Children Policy provides some guidance about how to do this.

The policy is informed by the findings of the Protecting Victoria's Vulnerable Children Inquiry (2012), the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Sexual Abuse (2015) and the Victorian Royal Commission into Child Abuse (2017) which provided evidence that many children have been victims of abuse across many environments including while in the care of religious organisations. These findings highlighted the imperative for religious organisations being particularly mindful and vigilant to address this issue.

Child abuse refers to any act which endangers a child's physical or emotional health or development. It can be a single act but usually takes place over time. Sexual abuse is any act in which a person with power or authority over a child involves the child in sexual activity. An abuser can be an adult (including a parent or caregiver), adolescent or older child.

¹ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990).

Kedem's Jewish Life & Education Coordinator is the Designated Person who has responsibility for the implementation of the Kedem Safeguarding Children Policy. Kedem also has a Board Member who has responsibility for oversight of the Kedem response to Child Safeguarding obligations. The Kedem President can also be contacted if there are concerns.

Sara Sterling
President

Kedem Child Safeguarding Designated Person
Ruth Gross
Kedem's Jewish Life & Education Coordinator

Child Safeguarding Portfolio Kedem Board Member
Deborah Absler