

## **Child Protection Code of Conduct**

Staff members and associates of Edmund Rice Foundation (ERF) are responsible for maintaining a professional role with children, which means establishing and maintaining clear professional boundaries that serve to protect everyone from misunderstandings or a violation of the professional relationship.

All staff and those associated with ERF, its work and the programs it supports, should conduct themselves in a manner consistent with their role as an ERF representative and be a positive role model to children. ERF has developed a Child Safe Code of Conduct to protect children, staff and the organisation by providing clear behavioural guidelines and expectations. ERF's Child Safe Code of Conduct includes:

### **I will**

- Treat all children and young people in ERF partner program(s) with respect.
- Conduct myself in a manner that is consistent the values of ERF.
- Provide a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment for all children, young people, parents, staff and volunteers.
- Respect cultural differences.
- Encourage open communication between all children, young people, parents, staff and volunteers and have children and young people participate in the decisions that affect them.
- Report any concerns of child abuse.
- Be transparent in my actions and whereabouts.
- Take responsibility for ensuring I am accountable and do not place myself in positions where there is a risk of allegations being made.
- Self-assess my behaviours, actions, language and relationships with children.
- Speak up when I observe concerning behaviours of colleagues or others.

### **I will not**

- Engage in behaviour that is intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade children.
- Use inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory language when speaking with a child or young person.
- Do things of a personal nature that a child can do for him/herself, such as assistance with toileting or changing clothes.
- Take children to my own home/hotel or sleep in the same room or bed as a child.
- Smack, hit or physically assault children.
- Develop sexual relationships with children or relationships with children that may be deemed exploitative or abusive.
- Provide or supply of alcohol/drugs to children.
- Give gifts to children.
- Behave provocatively or inappropriately with a child.
- Condone or participate in, behaviour of children that is illegal, unsafe or abusive.
- Act in a way that shows unfair and differential treatment of children.
- Photograph or video a child without the consent of the child and his/her parents or guardians.
- Deal with a child in an inappropriate, unnecessary or culturally insensitive way.
- Seek to make contact and spend time with any child or young person outside program times.
- Use ERFA's computers, mobile phones, video and digital cameras inappropriately, nor use them for the purpose of exploiting or harassing children.
- Hire minors as domestic labour.

## Child Protection Self-Declaration

Edmund Rice Foundation (ERF) considers child abuse unacceptable in all circumstances and is committed to ensuring that all possible and necessary steps are taken to acknowledge the rights, and protect the wellbeing, of all children (a person under the age of 18 years) that we work with.

It is of utmost importance that abuse is not perpetrated nor compounded by those that ERF puts in contact with children and in whom children place their trust. It is therefore essential that all staff, associates and representatives of ERF understand their own role in protecting children and that all practical and reasonable steps are taken to counteract the risk of harm to children.

This self-declaration and agreement form relates to all individuals who come in to contact with children (in Australia and overseas) due to their relationship with ERF.

Please read ERF's [Child Protection Policy](#). If necessary, seek clarification with an appropriate ERF staff member and thereafter sign on this page to show you have understood and agree to abide by the contents outlined in these documents.

I (your full name)

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Of (current address)

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Declare that:

- I have been given a copy of, read and understand the ERF [Child Protection Policy](#) including the CPP Code of Conduct.
- I agree to abide by the behaviour protocols and follow the reporting procedure set out in the ERF Child Protection Policy and CPP Code of Conduct.
- I do not have a criminal record nor have undergone disciplinary action relating to forms of child abuse, neglect, or violence of any type.
- I hereby agree to the conditions and guidelines set out by ERF with regard to any contact with children in Australia and overseas as a result of an ERF arranged activity. I understand that ERF reserves the right to take legal action against me if I breach local or international child protection laws.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Edmund Rice Foundation's Child Protection Policy can be found online at:

<https://erf.org.au/policies/%20policies-tools-for-partners/>