



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Information Session for the new Victorian Child Safe Standards

Professional Standards Unit
11 May 2022



The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

Schedule

- Why are the VCSS changing?
- What is the impact of these changes for parishes, agencies and entities of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne (CAM)?
- How can CAM parishes, agencies and entities implement these changes?



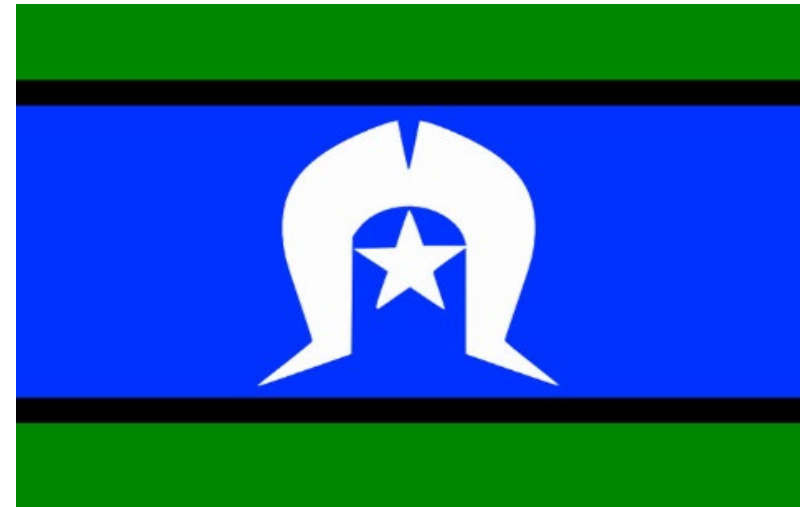
Housekeeping

- This webinar will be recorded and published on our website with the slides from this presentation.
- Your camera and mic are disabled – We can't see or hear you.
- If you have any questions arising from this presentation please contact your Safeguarding Officer.



Acknowledgement Of Country

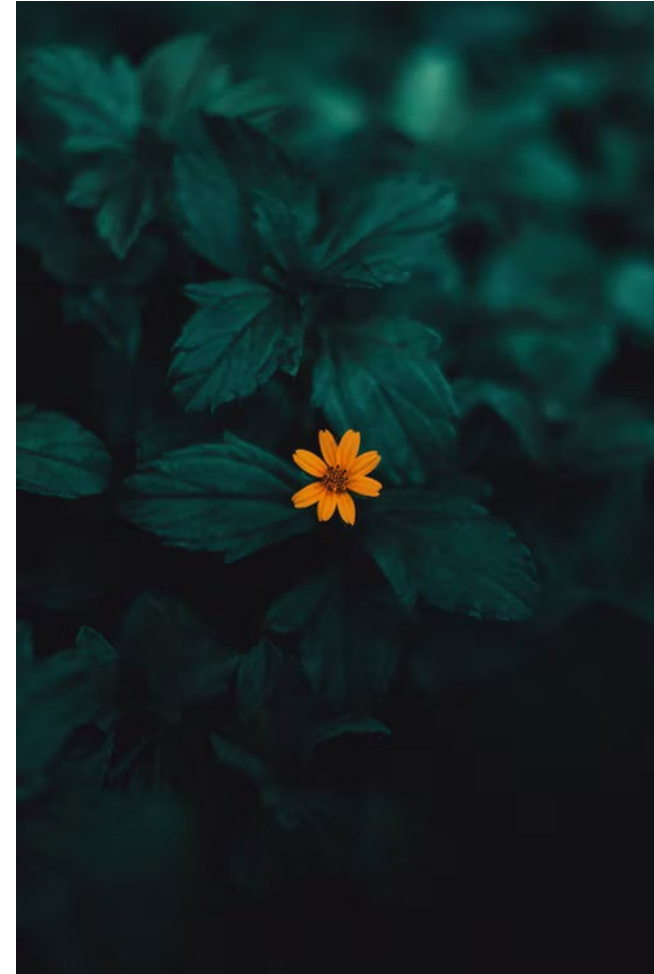
We would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we are meeting today, Boon Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation and pay our respect to elders, past, present and emerging leaders.



Acknowledgement of Survivors & Victims

No words of apology – while always needed – will ever be enough to right the evil done to those who have been abused, and those who were not listened to and believed. Efforts to repair the harm done – while entirely necessary – cannot overcome the evil perpetrated upon innocent children and vulnerable adults, and the harm experienced by families and communities.

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli



Self Care

Employee Assistance Program

1800 81 87 28

Parish priest

Family and friends

GP for referral to counselling

Centre Against Sexual Assault

9635 3610

Lifeline

13 11 14



Prayer



We pray for people who have experienced abuse and those who journey with them and pray the Lord of all tenderness and compassion will restore them and give them peace.

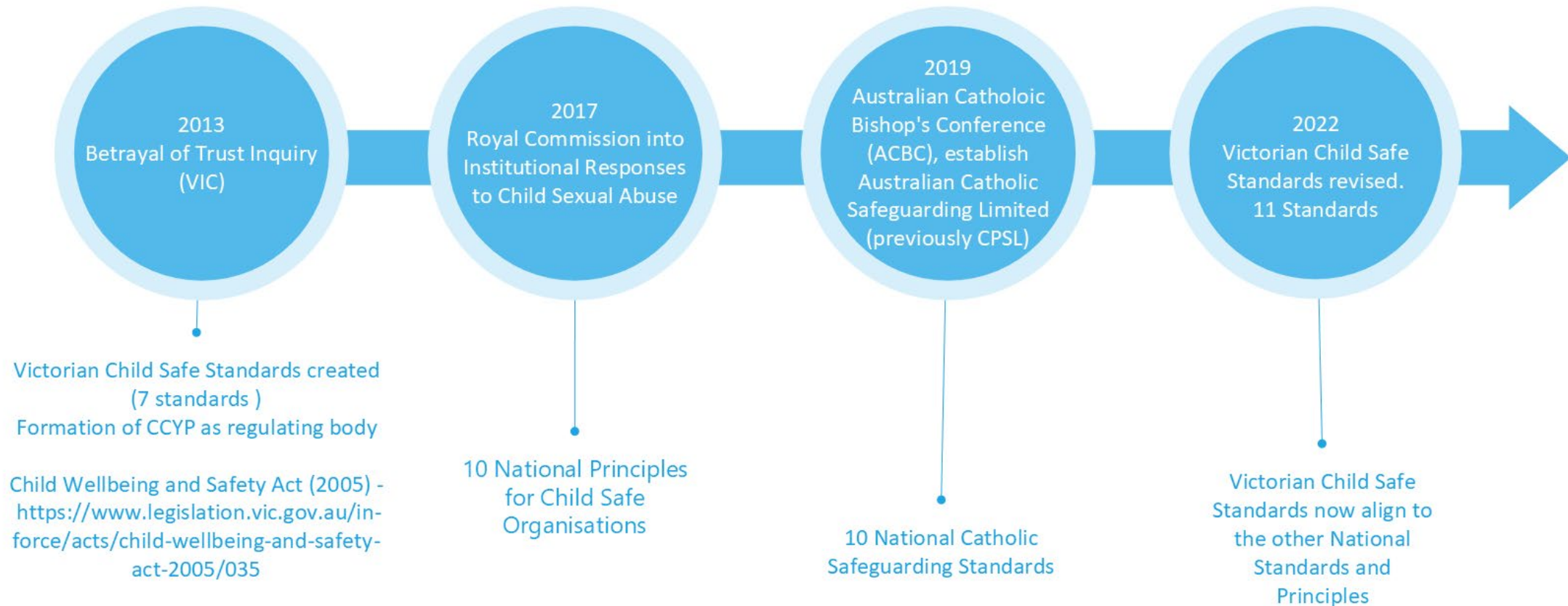
With humility of heart, we ask Jesus to bless our work to create safe and supportive environments, for all people, particularly children and young people.

We thank you for this opportunity to come together and support one another to fulfil your will.

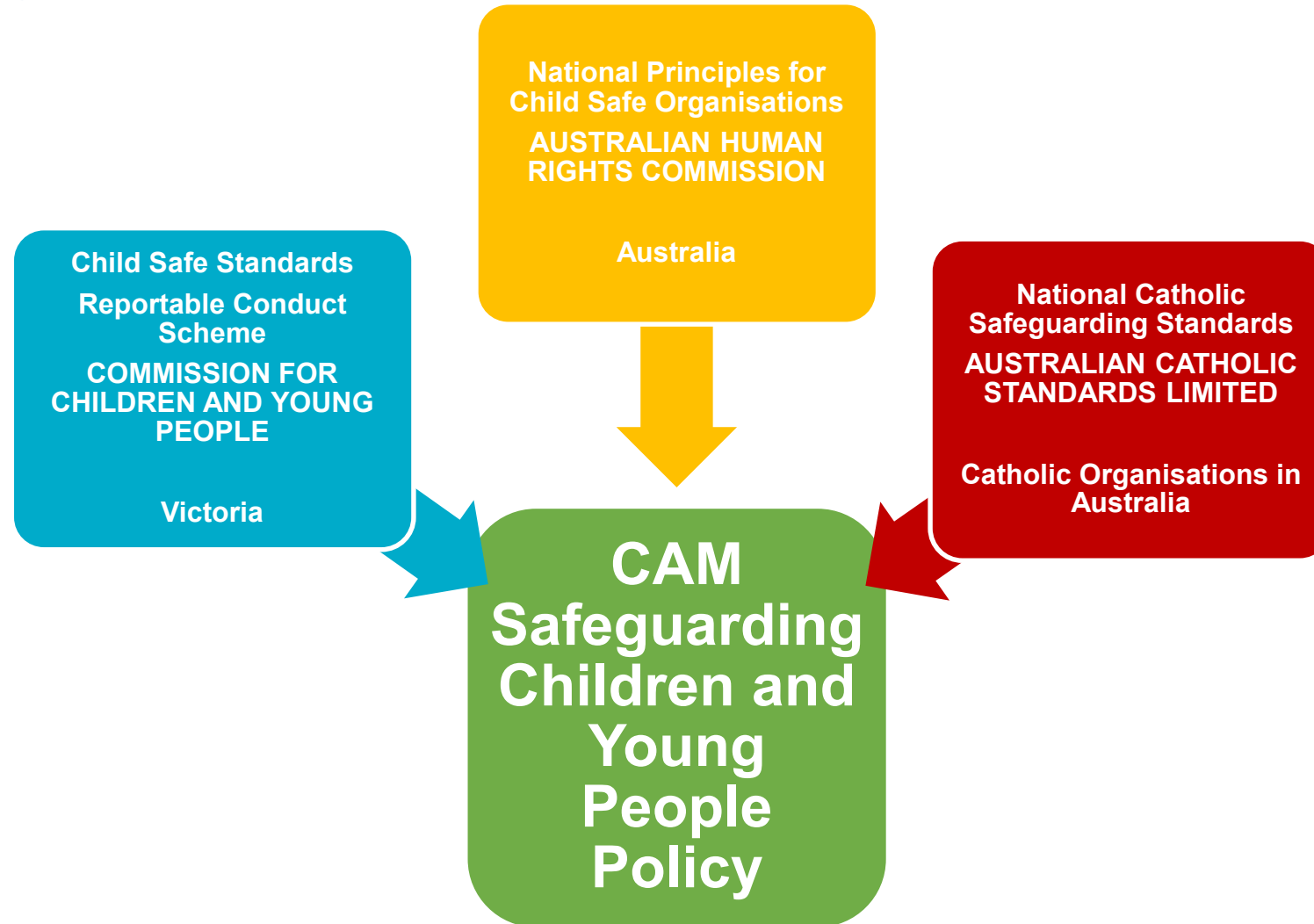
Amen



Inquiries and Standards Frameworks - Timeline



CAM Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework



The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.



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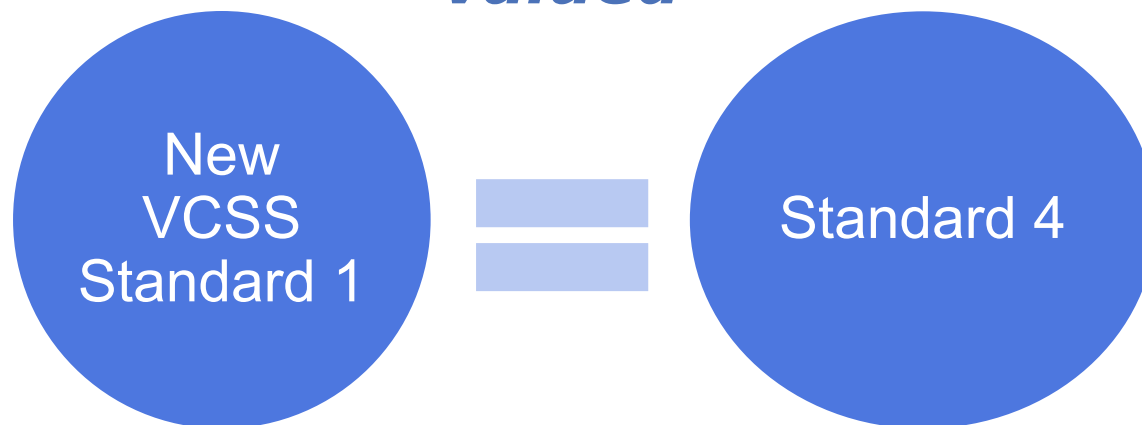
4 key new requirements

- A greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people and cultural safety more broadly for diverse groups.
- A greater involvement of families and children in safeguarding efforts
- Managing the risk of child abuse in online environments
- Greater clarity on the governance, systems, and processes to keep children and young people safe.



VCSS – Standard 1

Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued



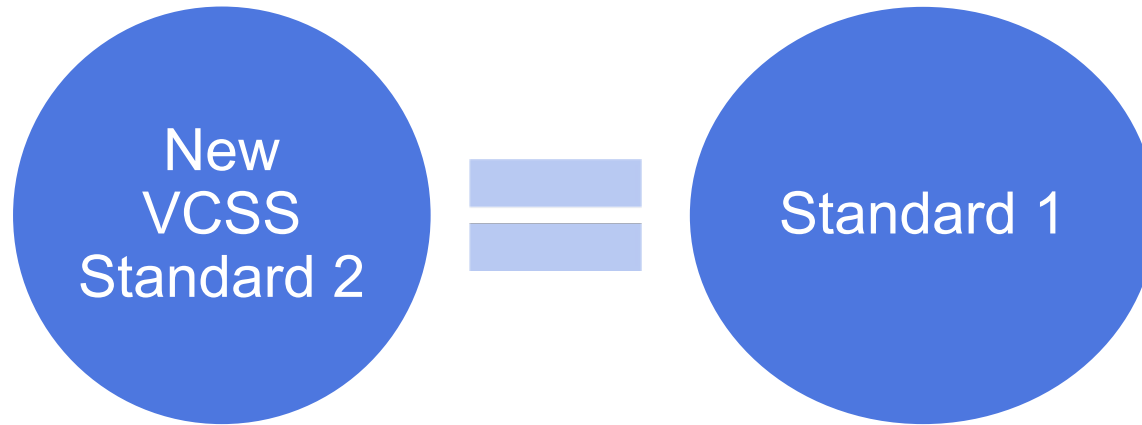
Changes – What's different to our existing framework?

- This is a **new standard** addressing how we make Aboriginal parishioners, including children, feel welcome and safe in our parish
- Identify and address incidences of racism with the involvement of Aboriginal children and young people, and their families.



VCSS – Standard 2

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



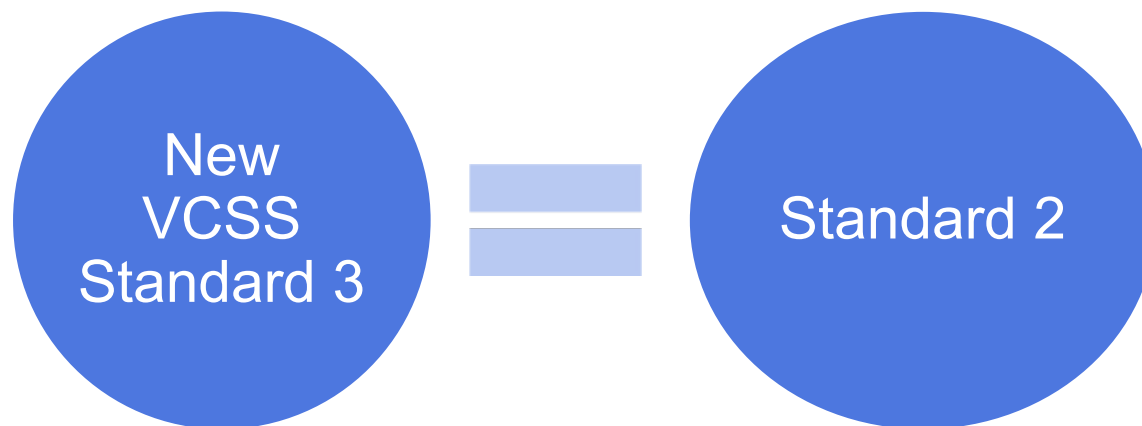
Changes – What’s different to our existing framework?

- The inclusion of “wellbeing” in the descriptor for this standard.
- This standard places a greater emphasis on the importance of the role of leadership, and in particular senior leadership in ensuring child safety and wellbeing.
- To ensure that children and young people have access to information, support and complaints processes that are **culturally safe and easy to understand**.



VCSS – Standard 3

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



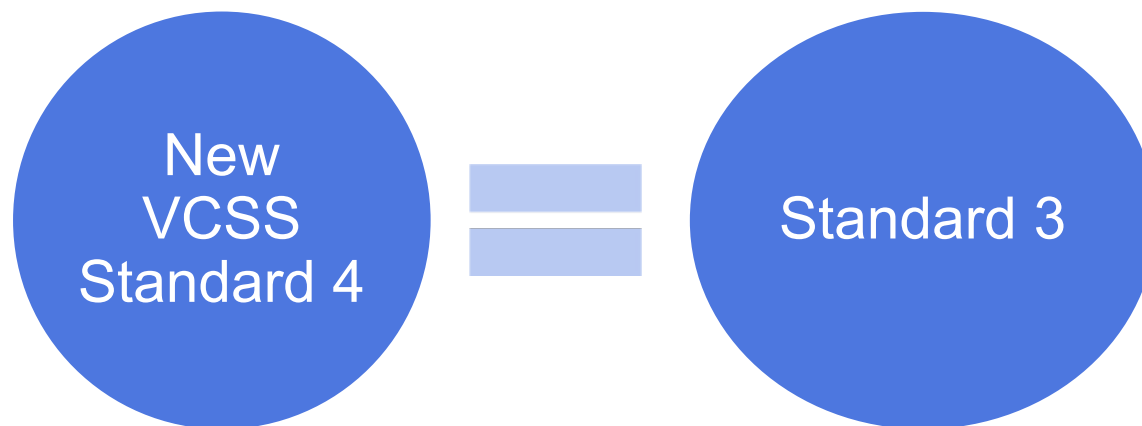
Changes – What's different to our existing framework?

- A stronger focus on developing a culture that facilitates the participation of children and young people
- Actively providing opportunities for children and young people to participate and being responsive to their contributions.



VCSS – Standard 4

Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing



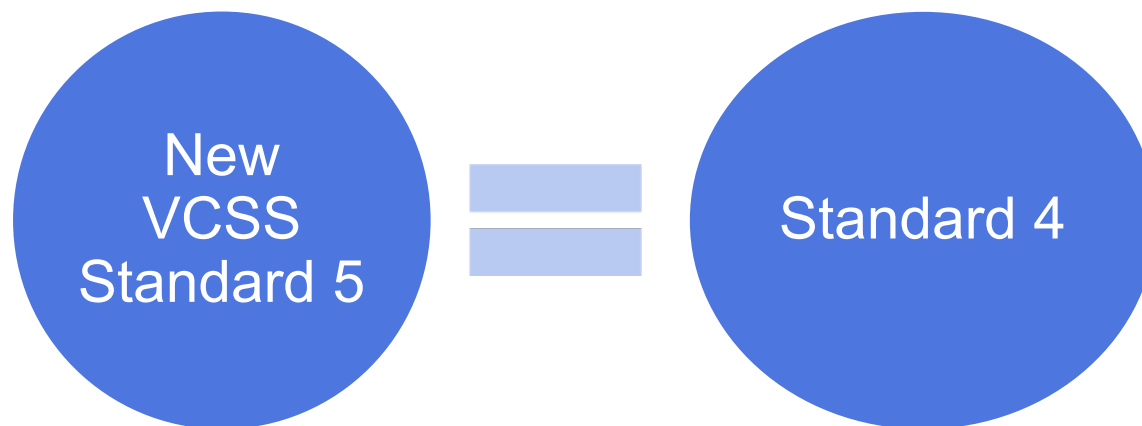
Changes – What's different to our existing framework?

- There is greater emphasis on understanding and acknowledging that the culture, structure and role of families vary.



VCSS – Standard 5

Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice



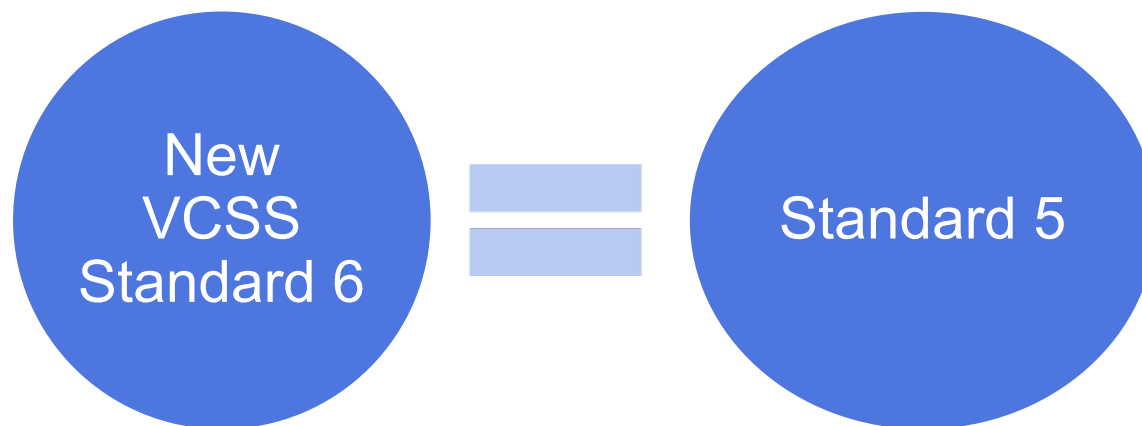
Changes – What's different to our existing framework?

- Information about complaints processes and supports are accessible, age-appropriate and available in a range of languages.



VCSS – Standard 6

People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice



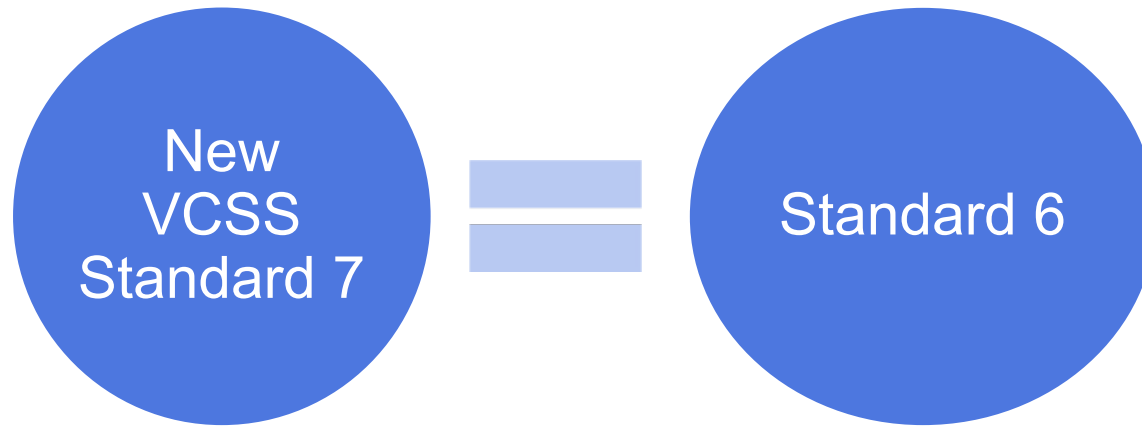
Changes – What's different to our existing framework?

- Record keeping as part of an induction process for all personnel.
- Guidance is provided for people managers on steps to take when managing staff or volunteers whose behaviour raises child safety concerns.



VCSS – Standard 7

Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused



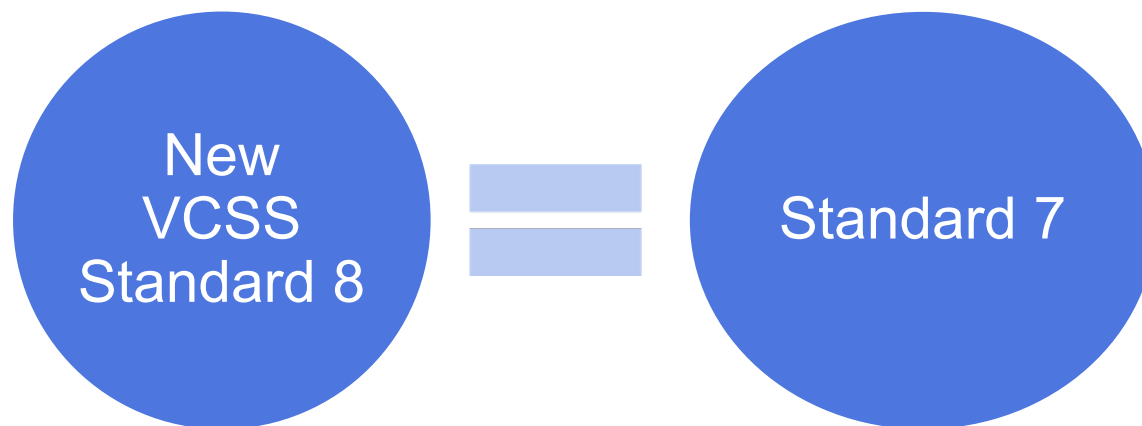
Changes – What's different to our existing framework?

- Considerations for processes for dealing with a breach of the Code of Conduct
- Ensuring processes for reporting abuse or safety related misconduct are culturally safe.



VCSS – Standard 8

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



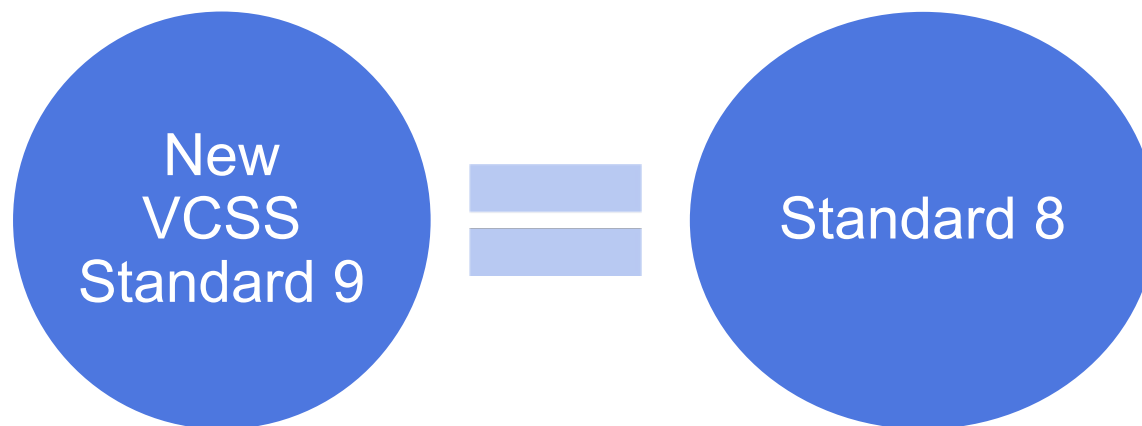
Changes – What’s different to our existing framework?

- The inclusion of training and support for staff and volunteers on the “wellbeing” of children and young people



VCSS – Standard 9

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed



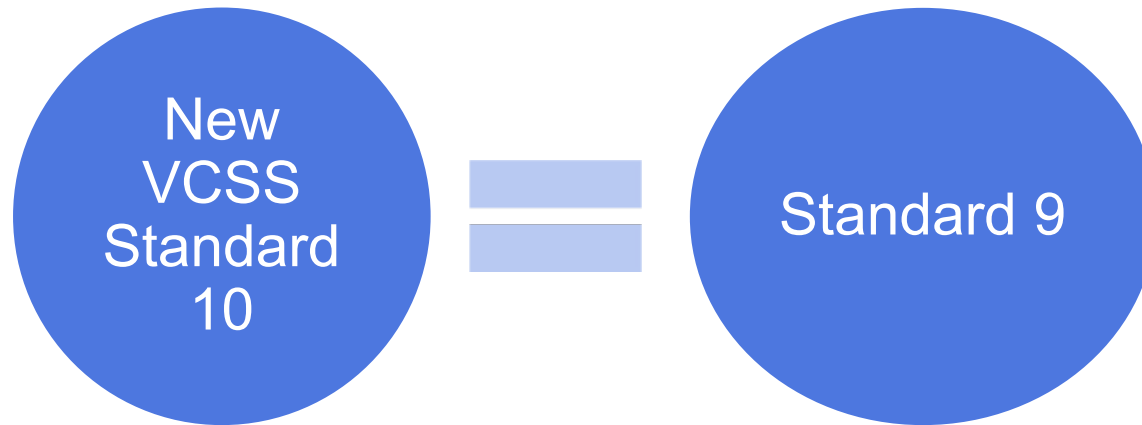
Changes – What's different to our existing framework?

- Informing staff and volunteers of the risk management plans in place.



VCSS – Standard 10

Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved



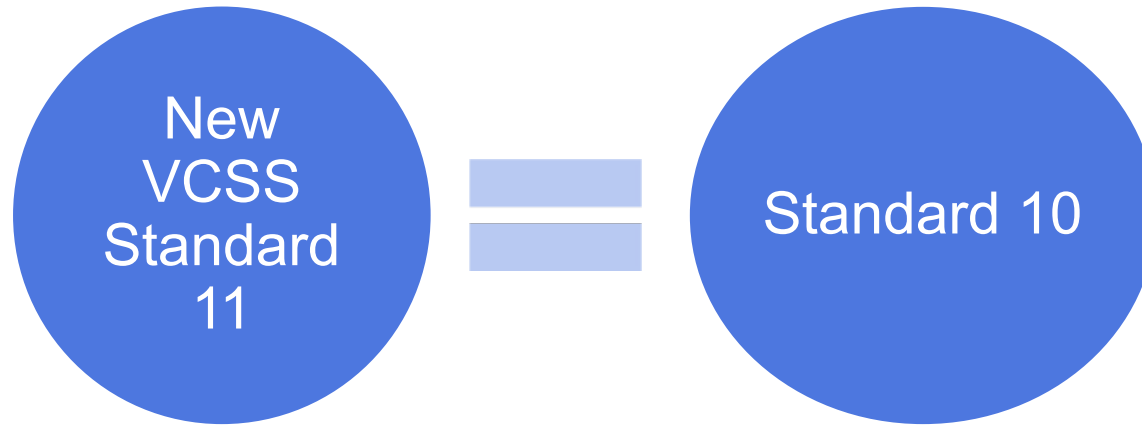
Changes – What's different to our existing framework?

- Safety incidences must be documented.



VCSS – Standard 11

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



Changes – What’s different to our existing framework?

- Ensuring that policies and procedures are ‘documented’ as well as being easy to understand.



How can we prepare for these changes by 1 July, 2022?

- What will you do to bring the key messages to life?
- How will you communicate this to children, families and communities?
- Who is going to implement these changes?
- When will we have this actioned?



Further Resources

Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (2005) -

<https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/child-wellbeing-and-safety-act-2005/035>

Commission for Children and Young People –

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/>

- [CCYP – A guide for creating a child safe organization](#)
- [CCYP – A short guide to the Child Safe Standards](#)
- [CCYP – Child Safe Standards Information Sheet](#)

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited

- [ACSL – Implementation guides](#)





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