The principles of Child Aware Approaches

Child Aware principles guide community-led, innovative and practical, grassroots actions to keep children safe and well.

**Family-sensitive**

*Identify and respond* to the needs of adults who are parents.

*Acknowledge and build* on family strengths while responding to family stressors and risk factors for child abuse and neglect.

**Child-inclusive**

*Understand* and apply knowledge of children’s needs at each stage of their physical, cognitive, emotional and social development.

*Recognise* and be sensitive to each child’s unique perspective and experience.

*Include children* as active participants in decisions that affect them.

*Promote* child-safe environments.

**Strengths-based**

*Enable parents* by promoting their parenting role as a motivator for positive change.

*Build children’s resilience* by addressing their vulnerabilities and promoting effective, consistent caregiving.

**Collaborative**

*Develop and maintain connections* between adult-focused services and child- and family-focused services.

**Culturally competent**

*Understand cultural influences* on family and parenting practices and respond in a culturally sensitive way.