

Child Protection/Child Safe update/ Report

Soldiers SLSC November Meeting 2023

This is a new and necessary element to our Clubs functioning .

It is not optional it is regarded by the Branch, State and Australian SLSA as imperative to the management and safe guarding of our members, particularly our younger members.

Our 'Ruling Bodies' have now instructed the many Surf Life Saving Clubs that they must start to address the issue of Child Safe practices.

It is our Duty of Care to ensure Safe practices are conducted while these young people are in our care.

Implementing the Child Safe Program

Make a Commitment

Follow the Code of Conduct

Report

Educate and raise awareness

Engage and communicate

Screen and recruit the right people.

WHAT WE CAN START TO DO AND WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE

I have attached a Club Commitment Statement to be signed by the President and the Admin or Committee member

Child Safe as a regular item on the Agenda

The Child Protection Guidelines Booklet have been placed in the Office the Fist Aid Room and presented at the Meeting in September

Have all Committee, Age Managers, even members done the Child Safe Online Awareness ELEARING MODULE ONE

Code of Conduct should be put onto the Web page and on Notice Board

Child Safe Posters should be put on the Notice Board and on the Club Toilets

JAC Director Matt White Jennifer Falconer, and the Director of Education Emma Griffith prior to the commencement of the Nippers season held a meeting with the age managers where the Child Safe Guidelines were explained

Club Check list (this is done by Committee members) find attached p12 Child Safe Guidelines

Risk Assessment done and completed each year.

The Club has through the JAC Director (who spoke to the parents) arranged the use of the club toilets so as to safe guard the Children after Nippers. Although this has worked we probably need to refine it some more, but it is a start. I thought a simple laminated sign on the doors of both male and female toilets explaining Nippers only while the sign remains on the door. The reason for this is that the Nippers have been finishing earlier and if we keep to the 11 am it does not fit the purpose.

An example of the sign for the toilets

WE APOLOGISE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE TO MEMBERS AND ASK YOUR SUPPORT THE NIPPERS WILL USE THE TOILETS DURING THE TIME THE SIGN IS ON THE DOOR **NO ADULTS DURING THIS TIME** TOILETS AND SHOWERS ARE AT THEO NORTHERN END OF THE CLUB **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

Safe Environment

All must be aware of the responsibilities in keeping Children and Young People safe while in our care. Safe from bullying abusive language, coercive behavior.

Three things to keep in mind

Monitor and ask questions if suspicious

Listen and Believe

Follow the Code of Conduct

Talk to the young people ask if there is anything that makes them feel unsafe uncomfortable get their input. .Talk to the kids generally get their feedback this is important on anything that they want to talk about it may help the club improve and may point to a more serious situation.

The Child Safe Policy 6.04 This is the SLSA Policy.

This Policy is made under Clause 39 of SLSA Constitution. It is binding on all Members of SLSA and is to be interpreted in accordance with the SLSA Constitution. It is a Membership directive under SLSA Regulation 4.

I have attached a copy.

We do not investigate any issue, we listen take notes verbatim from the child.

PPA is notified Person of Authority within the Club POLICE are notified then Branch

PAL 131414 SLS confidentiality online via reporting.sls.com.au

<https://aifs.gov.au/resources/mandatory-reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect>

Of importance the CRIMES ACT 1990 Sect316

316 Concealing serious indictable offence

(A) An adult who knows or believes that a SERIOUS INDICTABLE OFFENCE HAS BEEN COMMITTED BY ANOTHER PERSON

(B) WHO KNOWS OR BELIEVES THAT HE OR SHE HAS INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE IN SECURING THE APPREHENSION OF THE OFFENDER OR THE PROSECUTION OF CONVICTION OF THE OFFENDER FOR THAT OFFENCE

© WHO FAILS WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE TO BRING THAT INFORMATION TO THE ATTENTION OF A MEMBER OF THE NSW POLICE FORCE OR OTHER APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY

***IS GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE**

CONCEALING A CHILD ABUSE OFFENCE IS AN OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 316A

A SECTION 316A OFFENCE CAN ONLY BE COMMITTED BY AN ADULT

For my part as the Child Safe person I will be available on the beach when possible to help out with the Nippers if needed and at times to observe and talk with the kids (which I love) and parents. The aim is to create an atmosphere of caring and trust within the club, while keeping in mind the Child Safe requirements, and to see that it is fun for the children.

JENNIFER FALCONER

CHILD SAFE

WORKSHEET 1: MAKE A COMMITMENT

Your Club's Commitment To Child Safe

We are asking our clubs to join us in making a commitment, specifically, a Commitment Statement for Keeping Children and Young People Safe.

Action Plan

- Identify a club committee member to take leadership for overseeing the implementation of the club's development refinement of approach to keeping children and young people safe
- Ensure 'Child Safe' is included on your club committee agenda
- Distribute Handbook, Worksheet 1, draft Commitment Statement to club committee with meeting papers for review
- Encourage discussion at your committee meeting and consider any implications for club practices
- Once Commitment Statement is approved/endorsed, follow up with communication to club.

Whats Next?

We encourage your club to think about ways to put your Commitment into practice.

- Some strategies include: Post the Commitment somewhere prominent on your club website
- Promote the Commitment in your club newsletter and/or via social media
- Continuously reflect on club practice to ensure the Commitment is adhered to at all times
- Schedule an annual review of the Commitment club committee to ensure practice is maintained and continuously improved.

Why Is A Commitment Statement Important?

In the protection of children from abuse and harm it is recommended that your club clearly and publicly makes a commitment to keeping children and young people safe. A Commitment Statement is an important first-step in:

- Providing a safe environment for all, including children and young people
- Taking an inclusive approach to all activities
- Educating and informing those within your club and the wider community about your club's child safe responsibilities.

We have included the SLSA Commitment Statement below as an example of the approach we have taken at the national level. This Commitment Statement now exists as an important component in our overall SLSA Member Protection Policy and Child Safe Policy.

Developing & Endorsing A Commitment Statement For Your Club

To help you with this important step, we have developed an editable Commitment Statement you can tailor for your club.

To get started on your child safe development/refinement journey, we encourage you to include 'Child Safe' as a standing item on your club committee agenda. It is a good idea to discuss approving and endorsing a Commitment Statement the first time this item is discussed at your meeting.



CHILD SAFE COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Our Club:

- is committed to the safety and wellbeing of every child and young person who takes part in our activities, programs, events or services
- is committed to providing children and young people with a positive and nurturing experience
- will support families and the community to promote the healthy development and wellbeing of all children
- will strive to ensure that children and young people are protected from abuse and harm
- will work to create an environment in which children and young people are safe and feel safe at all times
- will listen to children and young people and address any concerns that they raise with us
- will support our members and the community to report any suspicion, or concern in relation to the mistreatment, or potential mistreatment, of a child or young person will challenge inappropriate behaviour of any of its members or members of the community
- will ensure all children and young people, no matter what cultural ethnicity, language, religion or disability, shall be able to participate in surf lifesaving in a fun and safe environment will appoint a Member Protection Information Officer, or equivalent, and ensure this person is trained on the obligations and responsibilities with respect to safeguarding children and young people
- will strive to ensure that persons in a position of authority do not harm, abuse or exploit children or young people who are involved within our club
- may not ask for consent to disclose information to police or an external child protection agency in the event we have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person.

As part of our commitment to keeping children and young people safe, our club:

- is committed to supporting parents and carers to protect their children and young people
- will offer assistance that builds on a family's strengths and make up, is sensitive to their culture and religious beliefs and empowers them to meet the changing needs of their children and young people
- is committed to communicating honestly and opening with parents and carers about the wellbeing and safety of their children and young people
- will promote and distribute information to parents and carers about our child safe commitment to children and young people as part of an introduction to our club
- endeavours to be transparent in our decision-making, with parents and carers, as long as doing so does not compromise the safety of a child/young person or breach the SLSA Privacy Policy.

This commitment was approved and endorsed by our club on:

Club President

Signature

Name..... Simon Falconer

Date..... 19 November 2023

Club Secretary/Committee Member

Signature

Name..... Annie Vandertouw

Date..... 19 November 2023

