

Scouts Australia

CHILD PROTECTION SUMMARY

PRINCIPLE ONE – ALL ADULTS IN SCOUTING are to report Child Abuse.

All Adults in Scouting are to immediately report any incident concerning Child Abuse to the appropriate authority as required by the legislation in the State/Territory in which the incident occurred and in accordance with the Branch Child Protection Framework notwithstanding the wishes of the Child or any other person

PRINCIPLE TWO – Respond positively and quickly to the person disclosing abuse and report on matters observed by you to the appropriate authority in accordance with the Branch Child Protection Framework

PRINCIPLE THREE - All Child Protection Reports will be attended to without delay and treated strictly in accordance with the Branch Child Protection Framework

PRINCIPLE FOUR – Reports and disclosures should not be internally investigated at the receiving point, or, between the receiving point and the Branch. All Reports and disclosures should be forwarded as soon as possible to the Branch and/or to the authority legislated in each State or Territory.

Scope. The Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy provides clear direction for all Scout Branches and mandates the child protection standard for all members. State Branches are to conform with all the requirements of their legislative jurisdictions and are to develop their own detailed Child Protection Frameworks which adopt this Policy and its prescribed procedures. Where State-based legislation mandates prescribed actions or imposes a higher level of responsibility that legislation is to apply.

Policy Statement. The Scout Association is committed to an environment of **ZERO TOLERANCE** toward bullying, neglect and emotional, physical, psychological or sexual abuse of any kind. When an incident does occur, our absolute priority is to ensure the immediate safety and welfare of the Child.

Report. Report. Report. All Adults must report any conduct directly seen or suspected that does not comply with this Policy and/or the Scouts Australia Code of Conduct. Without fail, Adults must report immediately any disclosure, allegation or suspicion of abuse of Children in accordance with this Policy and in the manner specifically required by State/Territory legislation where the incident occurred and the relevant Branch Child Protection Frameworks. Children are to be encouraged to report any conduct that does not comply with this Policy and are to be regularly reminded/informed through the Scout program of their rights to feel safe and what action they can take if they do not feel safe. Every and all occurrences of alleged sexual abuse must be reported to the authorities regardless of whether the State or Territory has mandatory reporting requirements.

The Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy provides very **specific Policy and Procedural standards** that **MUST** be adhered to by all Branches and participants in the following important areas:

- Establishing a Child Safe Environment (the result of full compliance with this Policy and procedures)
- Screening for Membership (includes strict requirements for supervision)
- Mandated Reporting (flow chart attached)
- Responding to Disclosure (child focussed)
- Suspension and Termination (automatic)
- Training and Communication (mandatory)
- Sharing of Information (open and complete cooperation with child protection authorities)
- Survivor/Victim Focus (the primacy of our highest duty of care to our youth)
- Youth representation and involvement (encouraging all youth members to communicate openly)

It is the responsibility of all members to adopt and comply with the standards and the prescribed procedures detailed in the Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy.

