



*(Compulsory Attachment to the Y1 Form)*

# PARENTS' CHILD PROTECTION GUIDE

## SCOUTS – CHILD SAFE AND CHILD FRIENDLY

The Association is committed to providing a child-safe environment for all Youth participating in its programs.

### CHILD PROTECTION IN SCOUTS

Scouts NSW has a Child Protection Team comprised of the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Issues Management), the General Manager, the State Commissioner for Member Support and a Child Protection Officer, specifically appointed to oversee any child protection concerns arising in the delivery of the Scouting program.

The Deputy Chief Commissioner (Issues Management) who has the task of overseeing child protection and safety within the organisation, is a qualified professional and has a number of consultants he can call upon when needed. These consultants all have special qualifications related to this area.

The Child Protection Policy and Procedures for Scouts Australia NSW is accessible on the website at <http://www.nsw.scouts.com.au/leaders/resources-and-policies> and under the parents tab on the home page.

The Child Protection Procedures contains helpful attachments on the nature of and response to child abuse.

### SCOUTS DOES NOT TOLERATE ABUSE!

Scouts Australia NSW is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of all of its Members. Scouts have zero tolerance for abuse of any kind – the physical, verbal, emotional or sexual abuse - of its Members.

### REPORTING ABUSE

Scouts NSW works with NSW Police, NSW Community Services (formerly DoCS), the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, the Office of Children's Guardian and other relevant authorities to address any child protection concerns.

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the General Manager or the Child Protection Officer at State Office on 9735 9000 or at [ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au). Once we receive a notification, the Association will make an immediate report to the relevant authorities.

If an individual has made a report to NSW Police, NSW Community Services, or another relevant authority, they should also report the matter to the Chief Commissioner, the General Manager or the Child Protection Officer. The Association will then make direct contact with the relevant authority about the matter.

Reporting to the Association enables the Association to work directly with the authorities in managing the matter. It enables the Association to take immediate action under its Behavioural Management Policy, in consultation with the authorities.

### IMMINENT DANGER

If a young person is in imminent danger, the matter should be reported directly and immediately to NSW Police on **131 444** or to the Community Services Child Protection Helpline on **132 111**.

### SCREENING, TRAINING AND RESOURCE FOR LEADERS

For over 50 years, when there was no legal requirement for the screening of Youth Leaders, Scouts has insisted that all Leaders undergo an interview, have referees and submit to a full Police Criminal Record Check, which are also conducted randomly on an ongoing basis throughout their service at Scouts.

Under the Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012, the Office of Children's Guardian now oversees an important aspect of the screening and standards for those who work or volunteer with children and young people and manages the Working with Children Check ("WWCC") process. Scouts NSW has been phased into the WWCC process during 2015 and 2016. By the completion of the phase in period for Scouts NSW on 31 March 2016, all active Uniform Adult Members, Adult Helper Members and all employees hold current Working with Children Check clearances, which have been verified and recorded by Scouts NSW.

Scouts NSW is in ongoing communications with the Office of Children's Guardian about our policies and practices.

Both during the phase in of WWCCs and after, Scouts continues its current long standing practice of insisting that all Uniform Adult Members are interviewed, have referee checks and submit to a NSW Police Criminal Record Check, which is also conducted on a random ongoing basis throughout their service with Scouts NSW.

Before they are appointed as a Leader, each Uniform Adult Member applicant undertakes specialised training under the direction of skilled trainers. The training covers subjects such as Scouting Skills, Programming and First Aid. Other crucial subjects covered in the courses are associated with the development, protection and wellbeing of Youth Members. These include Child Development, Understanding the Child, "Child Safe" (Child Protection), Bullying, Dealing with Problems and Risk Assessment.

"Fact Sheet 1: Reporting Child Protection Concerns" outlines the standards of care we expect of our Leaders and is available on Scouts NSW website under the [Resources and Policies](#) tab, [Leader Support Guides](#) link.

Parents have their own section on our website under the [Parents](#) tab and [Child Safety](#) link.

## RESOURCES TO HELP YOU PROTECT YOUR CHILD

The NSW Department of Education and Training teaches school students in NSW about “Safe Living” through their educational seminars. Safe Living promotes safe environments and practices by teaching young people how to act in ways that will keep themselves and others safe from harm. It covers topics such as child protection, road safety and swimming safety.

The Safe Living program can be found online at

<http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/>

Educators encourage parents to help reinforce these safety measures and behaviours with their children.

The NSW Department of Education and Training uses the safety strategy of “No”, “Go”, “Tell”.

- **NO-** What action can your child take when they feel upset, unsafe or bullied? Say No! When do you say no? Anytime someone suggests or attempts something you think is wrong or not nice.
- **GO-** What action can your child take to leave an unsafe situation?
- **TELL-** What secrets are good to keep? What secrets should be told? Why it might be difficult to tell someone about some unhappy secrets?

Other on line resources on prevention and responding to child abuse include:

The Child Abuse Prevention Service at <http://www.childabuseprevention.com.au>

The Child Wise Organisation at <http://www.childwise.net/page/39/fact-sheets>

## WHAT DO I DO IF A CHILD TELLS ME ABOUT ABUSE?

If a child tells you they have been abused:

Stay calm, listen to them, let them know that you believe them, reassure them, do not promise to keep it a secret, tell them that you would like to get some help, let them know that it is private but that you have to tell someone who can help them.

Children should feel confident to raise any concern and know they will be listened to.

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the General Manager or the Child Protection Officer at State Office on 9735 9000 or at [ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au). The Association will take action to report to the appropriate authorities.

## HOW TO DEAL WITH A CHILD EXPOSED TO A TRAUMA

Online resources for parents and children who have experienced child abuse:

- ReachOut.com, a leading online youth mental health service providing young people with information about topics such as bullying and cyberbullying, abuse, and mental wellbeing: <http://au.reachout.com/>
- The Child Abuse Prevention Service runs free seminars for the ongoing support of parents and young people: <http://www.childabuseprevention.com.au>
- The Child Wise Organisation at <http://www.childwise.net/page/39/fact-sheets>