



SCOUTS AUSTRALIA NSW BRANCH Child Protection Policy

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 The purpose of this Policy is to set out how Scouts Australia NSW provides a child safe environment which counters the risk of Youth involved in Scouting being abused by:

- (a) Providing a clear framework for the careful selection, recruitment, training and management of Adults concerning child protection;
- (b) Having in place a clear, transparent and simply understood Policy and Procedure to protect our Youth and Adults and ensure that our Adults do not put either our Youth or themselves at risk;
- (c) Clearly explaining to parents, Youth, Adults and staff what the Policy and Procedure are and how and why they operate and ensuring that they are understood;
- (d) Ensuring that allegations of abuse or suspected abuse are dealt with in a timely, consistent and correct manner and through the right channels; and
- (e) Having an auditable feedback method to ensure the Policy and Procedure remain relevant and effective and can be improved where necessary.

1.2 This Policy applies to all Youth participating in Scouting and all Adults in control of or in contact with those Youth.

1.3 For the purposes of this Policy:

"Adult" means any person 18 years of age or older, and includes any Leader, Adult Supporter or Rover Scout who is involved in the delivery of Scouting in any form no matter the frequency, duration, formal level of authority or whether the person is or is not a registered member of the Association.

"Adult Helper" means an adult holding a Certificate of Membership of the Association who provides assistance to a leader and is bound by the policies and rules of the Association.

"Adult Supporter" means an adult who, from time to time, assists Scouting in some way, but does not hold a Certificate of Adult Leadership with the Association.

"Association" means Scouts Australia and in particular, Scouts NSW.

"Board" means the State Executive Committee or Board of Scouts NSW.

"Procedure" means the Scouts NSW "Child Protection Procedure" document.

"Youth" means a person less than 18 years of age involved in any Scouting activity, whether or not they have formally been registered as a member.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 The Association has a duty of care to all Youth when involved in Scouting to provide a child safe environment that protects them to the best of its ability from physical or emotional harm, while not detracting from their ability to develop by graduated challenges appropriate to their development and ability. All Adults are accountable to deliver that duty of care on behalf of the Association at all times.

- 2.2 The Association shall ensure when recruiting, selecting and managing Leaders, Adult Helpers and Adult Supporters who are in control of or in contact with young people that they understand this duty of care and agree to ensure that is responsibly exercised in accordance with the Association's Code of Conduct and the Scout Law and Promise.
- 2.3 The Association is committed to providing a safe environment for Youth participating in its program that applies zero tolerance toward Child Abuse of any kind and minimum tolerance toward bullying. Because abuse can take many forms and be perpetrated in many ways, the Association requires Adults to be alert to abuse in all of its manifestations.
- 2.4 Adults must report any conduct seen or heard that is inconsistent with the Association's Code of Conduct and/or the values expressed in the Scout Promise and Law. Without fail, Adults must report immediately any suspicion or allegation of abuse of Youth in their care in the manner specified in the related Procedure document. A failure to report such behaviour may be treated by Scouts NSW as a Major Behavioural Issue capable of resulting in the termination of Membership.
- 2.5 As prescribed in the Procedure, when a report is made to Scouts NSW, it will be referred to the NSW Police and/or the Department of Family and Community Services immediately, as applicable to the nature of the concern, by the Scout NSW's Branch management.
- 2.6 Responding to allegations of abuse must be undertaken with the utmost sensitivity and confidentiality. The welfare of Youth involved in Scouting is of paramount importance. Accordingly, the Chief Commissioner or delegate in his sole discretion, may summarily exercise this prerogative to terminate membership of the Association in response to an allegation of abuse. Likewise, the Chief Commissioner or delegate may terminate the membership of any person about whom he has sufficient doubt, even if an allegation is not proven against that person to the criminal standard of proof. Similarly, the Association is not obliged to proceed with an application for membership of any Applicant.
- 2.7 Parents of Youth will be provided with a copy of this Policy and the related Procedure when their child joins and is registered with Scouts NSW as a member.

3. CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Scouts NSW has a Child Protection Procedure in place which is consistent with this Policy and approved by the Chief Commissioner.

4. REVIEW

- 4.1 This Policy and the Child Protection Procedure will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if directed by the Chief Commissioner, by a committee consisting of the Assistant Chief Commissioner, Issues Management, the Child Protection Officer and one uniform member appointed by the Chief Commissioner. That committee will provide a report to the Chief Commissioner, together with any recommendations arising from the review.