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The Scout Association of Australia
Incorporated by Royal Charter

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MEMO:

To: See Distribution List

From: Chief Commissioner

Date: 30 October, 2000
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Subject:

THE CHILD PROTECTION (PROHIBITED EMPLOYMENT) ACT 1998

Three new Acts of Parliament came into force in July this year which impact on all volunteers and employees dealing with children. Under the Acts, volunteers must complete a "Prohibited Employment Declaration".

The new Acts affect all volunteers and employees in clubs, associations and organisations that have a significant child membership. They also require that certain checks (including a criminal record check) be completed on all adults who wish to become involved with the organisation.

Scouting in New South Wales already carries out checks that are consistent with and more detailed than those required by the Acts. We are continuing to do this.

We ask you to **TAKE NO ACTION WITH REGARD TO THESE ACTS AT THIS TIME**, as the State Office is in discussions as to the procedures necessary within Scouting to conform to the legislation. We are working with various Government agencies including the Commission for Children to achieve the best possible outcome for Scouting under the law.

We are aware that some deadlines exist under the legislation, and we are working with the agencies concerned to ensure they are met.

In the meantime our existing policies and procedures continue to protect our youth members. I will ensure that you are advised of any change in procedures and requirements when they are finalised.

Thank you for your assistance.

Graeme Fordham
Chief Commissioner

Distribution:

All Branch and Regional Commissioners
All Regional Team Members
All Group Leaders/Leaders in Charge
All Regional Offices
All Activity Centres