

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION POLICY PROGRESS REPORT

1. The National Risk Management Committee accepted the task of developing a National Child Protection (CP) Policy at the June 2015 NEC. Work commenced immediately after the June NEC to the point where we are now at the stage of finalising a CONSULTATION DRAFT (Draft 6).
2. Consistent with the lead-up discussions to the NEC decision to develop a National CP Policy, we (at the outset) engaged a highly respected Melbourne based 'child abuse prevention organisation' - CHILDWISE (with significant Australia-wide credentials in child protection policy development and practise) to produce our first draft. The logic of this decision was to ensure that the document was NOT an internally initiated paper, but rather, an externally initiated, contemporary and best practice start-point for our National CP Policy. Additionally, and consistent with earlier NEC discussions, we were also conscious of the importance that our final document be 'accredited' by an expert, external organisation. We see CHILDWISE as this organisation.
3. To this point, we have closely consulted with The National Chairman; The National Chief Commissioner and Executive Officer; key individuals from our Scouts Australia Royal Commission legal advisory team (Messrs John W de Wijn QC and Craig Ray); our National President (MAJGEN John Pearn); Chairman WA (Mr Peter Walton) and of course CHILDWISE. We have also provided a working draft to The National Commissioner for Adult Training and Development (Mr Elston Hynd) for information. The Vic Branch Exec Manager (Mr Dougal Mayor) has also given considerable support to the project thus far.
4. We are delighted with progress to this point, but we are not in a position to circulate a draft at the November 2015 NEC meeting.
5. Draft 6 (the CONSULTATION DRAFT) is set for distribution to all Branches in December. It is the Committee's intention to conduct direct consultation with every Branch and functional area of Scouts Australia taking consideration of all comments, concerns and improvements offered. We expect this process to take three months. Once this wider national consultation is complete, It is intended that we will table a final draft of the Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy at the NEC meeting in March 2016.

Dan Ryan
Chair National Risk Management Committee