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## Scouts NSW Update on Child Safety

Scouts NSW takes child safety extremely seriously. From the way we screen and recruit leaders, to the guidance we provide through our code of conduct, risk management procedures, behavioural management process and record keeping policies, we strive to support our Members and to ensure all adults in Scouting in NSW understand the high standards we expect of them.

### A Culture of Reporting

It is the responsibility of each individual in Scouting to take the time to read and understand the Scouts NSW Child Protection [Policy](#) and [Procedures](#). This will ensure that everyone understands the appropriate steps to take should any form of abuse be brought to their attention.

This includes knowing where and how to report child protection-related issues and concerns. Reporting is key to enabling us as an organisation to act quickly to deal with safety issues and is everyone's responsibility.

Recent legislative changes are designed to ensure that organisations take active steps to address a known or suspected risk of child abuse within the organisation. The new legislation requires individuals who know of the existence of a risk of child abuse within the organisation to use their responsibilities and powers to remove or reduce that risk. Reporting concerns, suspicions or information relating to the abuse of a child is a crucial element of complying with the legislative changes. Scouts NSW have reporting policies and procedures which are written to ensure that all members who follow them are complying with their responsibilities. Failure to act may lead to criminal charges, which could result in imprisonment.

Scouts NSW has several ways in which a report can be lodged:

- All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported via the [Child Health and Safety](#) page using the [Report a Child Protection Matter](#) online form.
- Use our Child Safe Hotline – **1800 605 004** – to directly contact the Child Protection Team at State Office.

All concerns will be taken seriously and dealt with appropriately.

If a young person is in imminent danger, the matter should be reported directly and immediately to NSW Police on 131 444 and you must then subsequently notify the Child Protection Team at State Office.

### Updates to Scouts NSW Policies and Procedures

Keeping up-to-date with important policy and procedures changes is an effective way to stay well informed.

#### *Introducing Working With Children Checks Procedure*

The newly introduced [Working With Children Checks Procedure](#) (WWCCP) provides all adults in Scouting with a better understanding of who needs a Working With Children Check (WWCC), when they need it, and which form they need to complete.

The Procedure incorporates the recent legislation requiring any Adult attending an overnight activity to hold a current and valid WWCC.

#### *Behavioural Issues Processes and Resolution of Conflicts and Disputes Policy*

This recently introduced [Behavioural Issues Processes and Resolution of Conflicts and Disputes Policy](#) supersedes the Behavioural Management Policy and outlines the process to follow for any disagreement in Scouting.

#### *Expired Working With Children Checks*

The Office of the Children's Guardian (the OCG) introduced Working With Children Checks (WWCC) in 2013. Each check is valid for a period of 5 years, which means that for some of our members, their WWCCs have now expired or will expire shortly.

Membership with Scouts NSW is contingent on a series of stringent screening mechanisms, including holding a valid WWCC. It is the personal responsibility of each to renew their WWCC and to inform Scouts NSW of the renewal. Any adult Member who does not hold a current, valid WWCC cannot maintain membership with Scouts NSW.

If your WWCC has expired, or is due to expire soon, please renew it at <https://wwcheck.ccp.nsw.gov.au/Applicants/Renewal>.

Forward your renewed WWCC to [wwcc@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:wwcc@nsw.scouts.com.au) so that it can be processed in ScoutLink.

#### *Training Update – Keep Up to Date*

All adult members of Scouting are required to complete 'Childsafe Scouting' and 'WHS for Scouting' eLearning modules every 3 years. This is to keep up to date with new legislation changes and best practice.

You will receive automated reminder emails from 12 weeks before your previous module expires, so there is plenty of time to re-complete the module. Failure to complete the modules could result in membership suspension.

ScoutLink will be updated accordingly with completion records.

Child Protection and Workplace, Health and Safety are high priorities for Scouts NSW and we thank all Members for keeping up to date with these important areas of Scouting.

If you require assistance, or have any questions please contact your local Training Team member, your Region Team, or [training@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:training@nsw.scouts.com.au).

Thanks for your help in keeping up to date in these important areas of Scouting.

### Child Safety Initiatives

#### *Australian Human Rights Commission – National Child Safe Principles video featuring Scouts NSW*

The Australian Human Rights Commission released a National Training video on the 10 Child Safe Principles, as endorsed by COAG (Council of Australian Governments).

The video features Scouts NSW, and is available to view here

<https://childsafeforum.humanrights.gov.au/>

#### *Youth Safe Advocates (YSA) Scheme*

The Youth Safe Advocates (YSA) Scheme aims to create a safe environment for our Youth Members where they can speak openly about any issues and concerns they may have.

YSAs receive extensive training by the Office of the Children's Guardian, as well as training on Scouts NSW Child Protection policies, which helps them listen to any young person who may be feeling afraid or concerned. YSAs understand how to take disclosures, report them appropriately, and provide support to our young people.

If you are interested in becoming a YSA, please fill in the [Expression of Interest](#).

#### Child Safety in Scouting

Scouts Australia NSW is committed to operating as a child safe organisation and implementing child safe policies and practices in accordance with the elements of a child safe institution outlined by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse report entitled Creating Child Safe Institutions.

##### Remember

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Youth Safety, Compliance and Support), the CEO or the Child Protection Officer at the NSW State Office.

To make a report use the [online child protection form](#), call 02 9735 9000 or email [childprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:childprotection@nsw.scouts.com.au).

##### Imminent Danger

If a young person is in imminent danger, the matter should be reported directly and immediately to NSW Police on 131 444.

Where a report is made to the police, you should also subsequently notify the NSW State Office.

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