



P.001 Child Protection Policy

Date Approved:

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Author:

Peter Walton

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to:

- (a) Counter the risk of Youth involved in Scouting being abused.
- (b) Ensure that allegations of abuse or suspected abuse are dealt with in a timely, consistent and correct manner and through the right channels.
- (c) Provide a clear framework for the recruitment, training and management of Adults concerning child protection.
- (d) Prevent Adults placing themselves at risk.

1.2 This policy applies to all Youth participating in Scouting and 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, which includes Rover Scouts, 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 Membership of the Association.

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

"Procedure" means the Scouts WA companion "Child Protection Procedure" document.

"Youth" means a person less than 18 years of age.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

2.1 The Association has a duty of care to all Youth when involved in Scouting to provide a safe environment that protects them to the best of its ability from physical or emotional harm. 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 and managing Leaders, Adult Helpers and Adult Supporters who are in control of or in contact with young people that the foregoing duty of care is exercised.

2.3 The Association is committed to providing a safe environment for Youth participating in its program that applies zero tolerance toward bullying, neglect, emotional, physical, psychological or sexual abuse of any kind. 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 does not comply with the Association's code of conduct. 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.

2.5 As prescribed in the Procedure, when a report is made to Scouts WA, it will be referred to the Western Australia Police and/or the Department of Child Protection and Family Support immediately, as applicable to the nature of the concern, by the Association'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, at its sole discretion, the Board may exercise its prerogative to terminate membership of the Association in response to an allegation of abuse. Likewise, the Association may terminate the membership of any person about whom it has sufficient doubt, even if the matter is not concluded or ultimately not resolved with certainty. Similarly, the Association will not proceed with an application for membership of an adult about whom the Association has concerns.
- 2.7 Parents of Youth will be provided with a copy of this policy and the related Procedure each time a child joins Scouts.

3. CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The Policy and Procedures Committee (PPC) shall consult the Chief Commissioner and prepare a Child Protection Procedure for the approval of the Board.
- 3.2 The Child Protection Procedure must be consistent with this policy.

4. REVIEW

- 4.1 This policy shall be reviewed every three years by the PPC, or earlier if directed by the Board. The PPC shall provide a report to the Board, together with any recommendations arising from the review.

5. APPROVAL

- 5.1 This policy was approved by the Board of Scouts WA on 4 February 2014.