



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY 2016

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the protection of all young people in the care of The Scout Association of Australia, Victorian Branch ('Scouts Victoria') and, specifically, to adopt the 'Child Protection Policy and Prescribed Procedures' of The Scout Association of Australia ('Scouts Australia') as Scouts Victoria policy.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Members of Scouts Victoria as well as supporters and employees.

POLICY STATEMENT

Scouts Victoria has zero tolerance for abuse of any form towards children and Youth Members.

All Adults in Scouting must report any conduct which they see or hear, or are aware of, which does not comply with this zero-tolerance policy and/or the Scouts Australia Code of Conduct. When an incident does occur, the absolute priority is to ensure the immediate safety and welfare of the child.

It is Scouts Victoria policy that the 'Child Protection Policy and Prescribed Procedures' of The Scout Association of Australia ('Scouts Australia') applies to all Members of Scouts Victoria as well as supporters and employees.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Executive Manager /Chief Commissioner

- Ensure this policy is made generally available, and is placed on the Scouts Victoria website.
- Ensure that this policy and child safety issues are included in induction and training programs for Adults in Scouting and employees, and require all Adults in Scouting and employees to agree to and abide by the Code of Conduct.
- Assist the BEC prepare a 'Branch Child Protection Framework' in accordance with the Scouts Australia policy.

Branch Executive Committee

- Within 6 months of the adoption of this policy prepare and adopt a 'Branch Child Protection Framework' consistent with the Scouts Australia policy.

Adults in Scouting

- Are required to keep the Scout Promise, live by the Scout Law, act in accordance with the Code of Conduct and provide an environment where young people feel safe and are free from physical or verbal harassment or abuse.
- Are required to report incidents, or suspected incidents, which they have witnessed or believe to have occurred on a Scouting activity or an activity perceived to be a Scouting activity.

Youth Members Under the Age of 18 years

- Are required to keep the Scout Promise and live by the Scout Law.
- Have the right to, and are encouraged to, report incidents or suspected incidents which they have witnessed or believe to have occurred on a Scouting activity or an activity perceived to be a Scouting activity.

PROCEDURES

The procedures laid down in the 'Child Protection Policy and Prescribed Procedures' of The Scout Association of Australia ('Scouts Australia') applies to all Members of Scouts Victoria as well as supporters and employees.

Reports of incidents or suspected incidents must be made directly to The Executive Manager, Scouts Victoria, initially by phone to 03 8543 9802, and then in writing to incidentreport@vicscouts.asn.au.

Under Victorian legislation Adults in Scouting may also be required to report directly to Victoria Police or other appropriate government authority.

DEFINITIONS

Code of Conduct: As defined in Policy and Rules (National Council of the Scout Association of Australia) – includes Youth Members, Young Adult Members (Rover Scouts) and Adult Members.

Member: As defined by Policy and Rules (National Council of the Scout Association of Australia) – including Youth Members, Young Adult Members (Rover Scouts and Adult Members).

Scout Promise and Law: As defined in Policy and Rules (National Council of the Scout Association of Australia)

Supporters: As defined in Policy and Rules (National Council of the Scout Association of Australia) – including parents/caregivers, officers of committees and others.

RELATED DOCUMENTS, REFERENCES

Crimes Act 1958

Policy and Rules of The Scout Association of Australia – the latest version can be found at www.scouts.com.au

'Child Protection Policy and Prescribed Procedures' of The Scout Association of Australia – the latest version can be found at www.scouts.com.au

Child Protection Policy and Prescribed Procedures – Executive Summary – the latest version can be found at www.scouts.com.au

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

PROCEDURE OWNER

Executive Manager

DATE OF APPROVAL / DATE OF REVIEW

26 July 2016 / 26 July 2019