

Child Safe Scouting

Fact Sheet: Supporting Youth with Additional Needs – Carer Involvement

Introduction

As a Child Safe Organisation, Scouts Victoria has a number of requirements for the involvement of adults in the delivery of our program, this includes compliance with suitability checks, eligibility checks and mandatory training requirements.

These requirements are defined on the basis of ongoing involvement and participation as a member of Scouts Victoria, but create barriers for carers of youth members with additional needs to be supported through their involvement in the program.

Carers are often engaged to support youth members with additional needs (sometimes known as disability support or special needs). This fact sheet applies for similar employed positions such as Community Support Worker, Personal Care Attendants (PCA), Residential Support Workers and alike.

Carers support a youth member with:

- Additional supervision where a need is identified, due to risky behaviour, fatigue management or disability
- Assistance ranging across staying on task, assisting with key activities like going to the toilet, getting dressed or maintaining personal hygiene
- Helping with some tasks that a youth member cannot achieve on their own without assistance during the program, or general day to day tasks

Identification of the need for a carer is multi-dimensional and should consider the following and outlined in a defined **management plan**. The management plan can be prepared by various people including Scouts Victoria, professional support, schools or other activities.

Considerations include:

- Context – remember Scouts isn't school and it isn't the same as sport either. Activities are varying in lengths, camps have difficult situations (like poor weather for three days, and everyone is exhausted)
- Situational – length of the activity, environment (hall or outdoors in open spaces), overnight activities away from home, ability (or inability) to return home
- Support Persons – some existing plans may discuss support people at home or school, during Scout activities these people may not be available, consider how we implement alternatives.



- Previous experience – new situation, history of risky behaviours, need for help during fatigue
- Existing plans outside of Scouts, prepared by professional support, or at school

This fact sheet is designed to define expectations in relation to our requirements to permit carers to be involved while maintaining our obligations as a Child Safe Organisation. Scouts Victoria values the diversity of our members, including gender, sexuality, race, religion and ability and this fact sheet is designed to support the needs of our youth members providing the guidance to make such involvement successful.

This fact sheet relates to carers who are not existing members (being a Leader or Adult Helper) of Scouts Victoria.

Carer Definitions

Based on the needs of a young person, they may have a carer to assist and support them through their Scouting journey.

Family or Parental Carer

Family or parental carers are person who are related to the young person and they support that young person in relation to their needs.

External Organisation Carer – Ongoing

An external organisation carer (ongoing) is a person who is a volunteer or employee of another organisation who is engaged to provide support for the young person on an ongoing basis (in other words, a carer supporting a young person today will continue to do so for an indefinite period). The organisation is usually engaged through an ongoing agreement with the parent or guardian of the young person or provided through service providers funded through services like the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).

External Organisation Carer – Casual

An external organisation carer (casual) is a person who is a volunteer or employee of another organisation who is engaged to provide support for the young person on an ongoing basis (in other words, a carer supporting a young person today may not be the same person next week). The organisation is usually engaged through an ongoing agreement with the parent or guardian of the young person or provided through service providers funded through services like the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS).



Scouts Victoria Requirements for Carers

As an organisation that values the diversity of our members, their abilities, all of our members have an obligation to ensure that carers are permitted to support young people as required. These requirements are defined to support enabling the assistance that carers provide.

Family or Parental Carer

As a family or parental carer has not undertaken suitability or eligibility checks to work with children, they need to meet the requirements as a Group Rostered Parent, which are:

- Hold a Working with Children Check
- Registered as an “Adult Supporter” and position of “Carer”, with the Working with Children Check recorded
- Complete the Workplace Health and Safety and Child Safe Scouting e-Learning Training

Alternatively, Family or Parental carers can be registered as an Adult Helper.

Note that we do usually require full-time persons at Scouts every week to be an Adult Helper or Leader, however the context here is that the parent/guardian carer will almost always work with their child and no one else.

External Organisation Carer – Ongoing

An external organisation carer would have typically undertaken suitability and eligibility checks within their organisation, which Scouts Victoria can accept with evidence.

The requirements are:

- Letter from the organisation, outlining that the carer has met screening practices which at a minimum have included:
 - Working with Children Check
 - National Police Check within the past 5 years
 - Reference Checks
- Registered under the classification “Adult Supporter” and position of “Carer”, with the Working with Children Check recorded
- Complete the Workplace Health and Safety and Child Safe Scouting e-Learning Training within 2 weeks of being provided a Registration Number.

External Organisation Carer – Casual

An external organisation carer would have typically undertaken suitability and eligibility checks within their organisation, however in some cases arrive at our activities and events without notice.

The requirements are:





- Carer to produce their Working with Children Check to be sighted by the Leader in Charge for the activity
 - Leader in Charge to confirm the status of the card at www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au to confirm that the person is eligible to work with children

Casual Carers cannot participate in overnight activities unless they have met the requirements outlined in *External Organisation Carer – Ongoing*.

Questions

If you have any questions in relation to how to engage a carer in your section, please contact Manager – People and Culture on 1800 SCOUTS

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