



Safeguarding Commitment Statement

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Scouts NSW is committed to creating an environment where all of our members are safe, supported and protected.

We acknowledge that youth protection is an essential component of our program. The protection of children and young people is a primary part of each Member's service delivery role and is our collective responsibility.

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse.
- All children and young people have the right to feel safe and be safe.
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of children and young people.
- Every child is valuable and should be given the opportunity to reach their full potential.

We recognise that:

- The welfare of children and young people is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependence, communication needs or other issues.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

We are committed to:

- Ensuring our members know that they have a right to feel safe and to be safe.
- Taking the interests and wellbeing of young people into account, in all our considerations and activities.
- Respecting the rights, wishes and feelings of the young people with whom we work.
- Developing a culture of safety and wellbeing.
- Taking all reasonable practicable steps to protect our members from neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.
- Standing up to and reporting misconduct and calling out inappropriate behaviours.





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We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting children and young people.
- Focusing on children and young people in all the work that we do and in all the decisions we take.
- Appointing a dedicated Scouts NSW Youth Protection Team, which is accessible to all members of Scouting and the wider community.
- Appointing Youth Safe Advocates throughout the state to provide an accessible point of contact for all members of scouting.
- Empowering children and young people to log their concerns with the Youth Protection Team
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for all staff and volunteers.
- Modelling and requiring appropriate and respectful behaviours in all relationships in Scouting.
- Recruiting and selecting staff and volunteers safely, using appropriate screening measures and WWCC.
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and discussions.
- Making sure that all members of Scouting, their families and the wider community know where to go for help where they have a concern.
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable sharing concerns.

Scouts NSW is built on the values of the Scouts Law - of being respectful, doing what is right and believing in ourselves. We firmly believe that when our youth members feel safe and supported, they will be empowered to live out these principles and embrace life's challenges in a positive way.

Scouts NSW will continue to review and implement our processes to safeguard our youth members. We remain committed to our youth's safety as they grow and develop into confident young leaders.

