



*(Compulsory Attachment to the Y1 Form)*

# **PARENTS' CHILD PROTECTION GUIDE**

## **SCOUTS – CHILD SAFE AND CHILD FRIENDLY**

In a friendly message of support, the former NSW Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ms Gillian Calvert commented on Scouts NSW's dedication to being a child safe and child friendly organisation:

*I encourage all organisations that work with kids to take steps to become child-safe and child- friendly. Kids are safer from abuse and harm when organisations adopt good risk management practices and build a culture that respects, values and includes children and young people.*

*I commend Scouts Australia NSW for making a positive contribution to making child-safe, child- friendly organisations a reality.*

For over 50 years, when there was no legal requirement for the screening of youth leaders, Scouts insisted that all Leaders have referees and submit to a full Police Criminal Record Check, which are also conducted on a random and ongoing basis throughout their service at Scouts.

## **CHILD PROTECTION IN SCOUTS**

Scouts NSW has appointed a Child Protection Officer to oversee any child protection concerns arising in the delivery of the Scouting program.

We also have an Assistant Chief Commissioner (Issues Management) who has the task of overseeing child protection and safety within the organisation. The Commissioner is a qualified professional and has a number of consultants he can call upon when needed. These consultants all have special qualifications related to this area.

The NSW Commission for Children and Young People oversees the establishment of screening and standards for those who work or volunteer with children and young people. We are in ongoing communications with the Commission's officers about our policies and practices.

A former Scouts Deputy Chief Commissioner served for number of years on the Commissioner for Children's Advisory panel. At the time when the Child Protection Acts were being reviewed Scouts were asked to make a formal submission to the Minister.

### **SCOUTS DOESN'T TOLERATE ABUSE!**

Scouts Australia NSW is committed to the health, safety and wellbeing of its Members. Scouts has zero tolerance for abuse of any kind – the physical, verbal, emotional or sexual abuse- of its Members.

### **REPORTING ABUSE**

Scouts NSW works with NSW Police, NSW Community Services (formerly DoCS), the NSW Commission for Children and Young People, and other relevant authorities to address any child protection concerns.

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the Chief Executive or the Child Protection Officer at State Office on 9735 9000 or at [ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au). Once we receive a notification, the Association will make an immediate report to the relevant authorities.

If an individual has made a report to NSW Police, NSW Community Services, or another relevant authority, they should also report the matter to the Chief Commissioner, the Chief Executive or the Child Protection Officer. The Association will then make direct contact with the relevant authority about the matter.

Reporting to the Association enables the Association to work directly with the authorities in managing the matter. It enables the Association to take immediate action under its Behavioural Management Policy, in consultation with the authorities.

### **IMMINENT DANGER**

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

### **SCREENING, TRAINING AND RESOURCE FOR LEADERS**

Before they are appointed as a Leader, each applicant undertakes specialised training under the direction of skilled trainers. The training covers subjects such as Scouting Skills, Programming and First Aid. Other crucial subjects covered in the courses are associated with the development, protection and wellbeing of Youth Members. These include Child Development, Understanding the Child, Child Protection, Dealing with Problems and Risk Assessment.

"Fact Sheet 17: Reporting Child Protection Concerns" outlines the standards of care we expect our Leaders to abide by. The Fact Sheet is available on Scouts NSW website under the [Resources and Policies](#) tab and [Leader Support Guides](#) link.

Parents have their own section on our website under the [Parents](#) tab and [Child Safety](#) link.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP PROTECT YOUR CHILD?

The NSW Department of Education and Training teaches school students in NSW about “Safe Living” through their educational seminars.

Safe Living promotes safe environments and practices by teaching young people how to act in ways that will keep themselves and others safe from harm.

It covers topics such as child protection, road safety and swimming safety.

The Safe Living program can be read online at <http://www.curriculumsupport.education.nsw.gov.au/>.

Educators wish for parents to help reinforce these safety messages with their children.

The NSW Department of Education and Training uses the safety strategy “NO”, “GO”, “TELL”.

- **NO**- What action can your child take when they feel upset, unsafe or bullied? Say No! When do you say no? Anytime someone suggests or attempts something you think is wrong or not nice. A good game is to have your children compete with each other see who can yell NO the loudest.
- **GO**- What action can your child take to leave an unsafe situation?
- **TELL**- What secrets are good to keep? What secrets should be told? Why it might be difficult to tell someone about some unhappy secrets?

## WHAT DO I DO IF A CHILD TELLS ME ABOUT ABUSE?

If a child tells you they have been abused, it can be hard to know what to do. If this happens to you:

- stay calm
- listen to them
- let them know you believe them
- reassure them
- tell them you're sorry it happened and let them know it's not their fault
- tell them you would like to get them some help
- don't promise to keep it a secret (you can't)
- tell them it's private but you have to tell some people who can help them
- don't say “Everything will be fine now”. It may take a long time before everything is fine again.

Children should feel confident to raise any problem or concern and know they will be listened to.

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the Chief Executive or the Child Protection Officer at State Office on 9735 9000 or at [ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au](mailto:ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au). Once we receive a notification, the Association will make an immediate report to the relevant authorities.

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

## HOW TO DEAL WITH A CHILD EXPOSED TO A TRAUMA

There are a number of great online resources for parents and children who have experienced child abuse.

- ReachOut.com is Australia's leading online youth mental health service and provides young people with information about topics such as bullying and cyberbullying, abuse, relationships and mental wellbeing: <http://au.reachout.com/>
- The Child Abuse Prevention Service runs free seminars for the ongoing support of parents and young people: <http://www.childabuseprevention.com.au/>
- The Child Wise National Child Abuse Prevention Helpline is a toll free number that provides Australians with access to expert advice from trained counsellors and an opportunity to speak up about child abuse.