

# About SLSA's Child Safe Program

SLSA has formally committed to keeping children and young people safe, and so this becomes an integral part of SLS culture and operations. We have reflected the sentiments of the commitment in our overarching Child Safe Policy.

Subsequent to this commitment, we have developed the Child Safe Program. The purpose of the Child Safe Program is to build the capacity of clubs to protect children and young people from physical, sexual, emotional abuse and neglect, and create environments which are supportive of positive and enjoyable experiences. The Child Safe Program targets key areas, including:

- Understanding the different types of child abuse;
- Identifying potential risks and dangers to children (e.g., going away on tours) and managing those risks;
- Ensuring all members are aware of the Code of Conduct for dealing with Children and Young People;
- Supporting members who challenge inappropriate behaviour; and
- Educating members on how to respond to child protection issues.

The Child Safe Program is a comprehensive framework that includes this handbook for clubs with accompanying resources to support clubs to implement actions and meet evidence-based best practice standards of safeguarding with the aim to assist with reducing the risk of abuse of children and young people that come within a club's duty of care.

Finally, to support effective implementation of this work and to fulfil the commitments outlined at the national level, SLSA recognises the importance of supporting our network of clubs by providing tailored resources to assist in the development and refinement of policy, procedure and practice to keep children and young people involved with and connected to the SLS movement safe. Accordingly, we have developed this handbook and compiled a set of tailored resources to assist clubs to better understand their responsibilities and be able to take ownership of the child safe agenda at their local levels.

This Handbook has been formally approved and endorsed by the Surf Life Saving Australia Board and are to be applied in conjunction with:

- a. All applicable Legislation within your respective state / territory in relation to protecting children
- b. All relevant policy and procedure documents, including SLSA's:
  - i. Privacy Policy 6.02;
  - ii. Child Safe Policy 6.04;
  - iii. Member Protection Policy 6.05;
  - iv. Social Media Policy 6.20; and
  - v. General community expectations in relation to appropriate behaviour concerning children.

This handbook has been developed by SLSA as part of our commitment to keeping children and young people safe and to assist our network of clubs, administrators and members to understand SLS's Child Safe Program and to develop and/or refine their approaches to keeping children and young people safe.

Within this handbook you will find:

- An overview of SLSA's Child Safe Program including:
  - Development of club-specific resources to support clubs
  - Online learning module
  - Online Reporting Register
- An outline of responsibilities and key areas of implementation for clubs to be aware of and action.

