



# Child Safety





# Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse



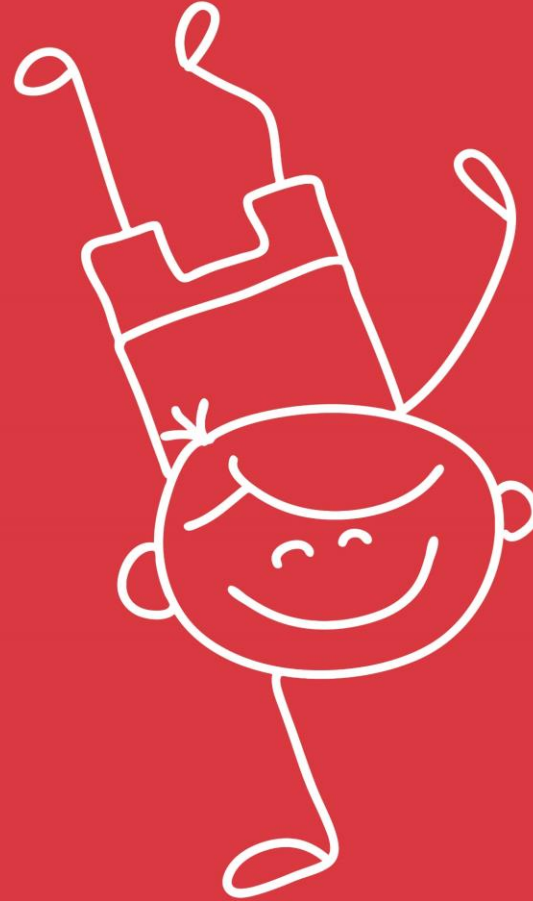
# National Principles for Child Safe Organisations



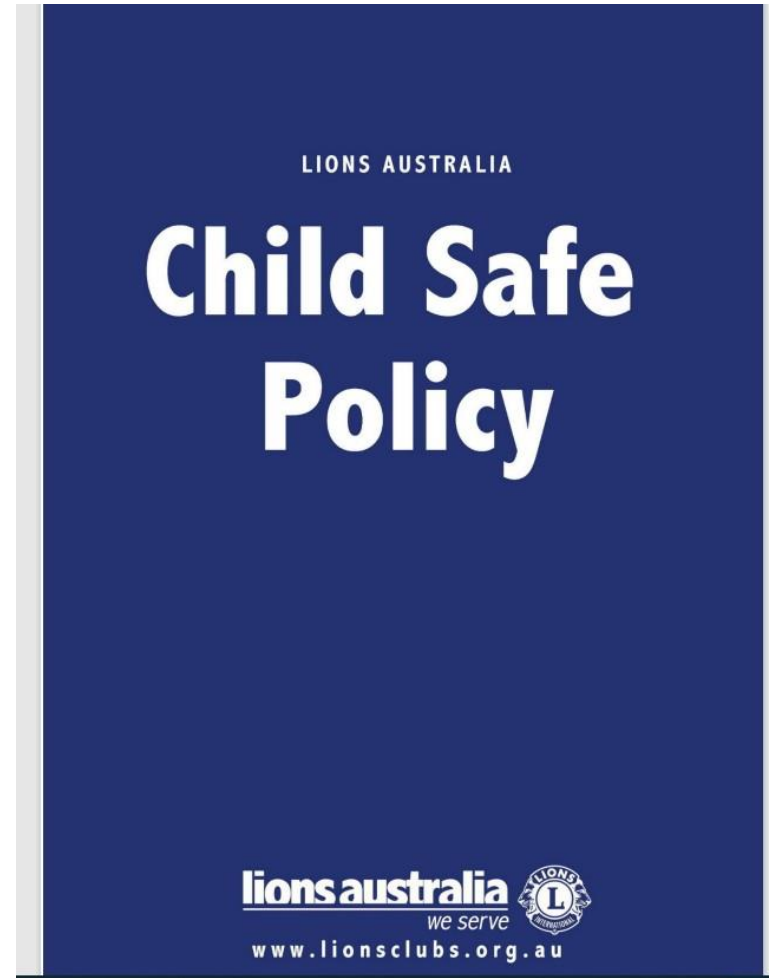


## STANDARD 10

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe.



# Lions Australia Child Safe Policy





# Child Safe Policy

- Meet our legislative obligations and organisational requirements
- Manage risks associated with our youth projects or any activities/events involving children and/or youth



# Child Safe Policy



- Statement of Commitment
- Code of Conduct when interacting with young people
- Working with Children Check (WWCC) Compliance
- Reporting Incidents of Abuse and Suspicions of Harm
- Record Keeping and Retention of Records
- Risk Management

# Child Safe Organisations

Lions Australia is committed to being a child safe organisation.

As such:

- a) We will build an environment that will mitigate harm to children or young people.
- b) We will build an environment that will significantly improve the possibilities of identifying and reporting harm.
- c) We will react appropriately to any disclosure or allegations of harm.



[Lions Australia Child Safe Policy – Section 5]



# Conduct When Working with Children/Youth



FOR ALL PROGRAMS



## 7 LIONS CONDUCT WHEN WORKING WITH CHILDREN

Lions Australia is a highly respected organisation through its excellent work in the community and overseas projects. Its logo is highly recognisable and our members are often seen in the wider community performing much needed beneficial tasks and as members we are proud of our achievements. Given this, it is important for both our members and the community to maintain confidence in our activities. A significant part of maintaining this confidence is for all members to adhere to a Code of Conduct. Therefore the following are reasonable expectations we put on ourselves when working with children.

Lion members and volunteers shall:-

- i. At all times whilst at a youth camp or other Lions organised youth events wear a Lions Identification Badge or Passes or lanyards.
- ii. At all times we will take all reasonable steps to protect children and young people in our care.
- iii. Not develop a relationship with child or young person that could be misconstrued as grooming behaviour by others.
- iv. Not develop a relationship with a child or young person that could threaten the child or young person's safety or wellbeing.
- v. Will not disclose children or persons private information other than within the obligations of the Child Safe Policy.
- vi. Be accepting of all children and young people in our care regardless of their ethnicity, religious beliefs, or gender identification.

# Working with Children Check

- A Working with Children Check (WWCC) is a criminal screening check. It aims to prevent people who may pose a risk to children or youth from coming into contact with them through their employment or volunteer activities.
- Even though, in most states a WWCC or its equivalent is only required for longer term work with young people, it is Lions Australia policy that the members or volunteers of any club operating youth programs who have **direct** involvement with young people shall obtain a Working with Children Check.
- Arrangements for WWCC Checks vary in each State. Lions operating youth programs must appraise themselves of the legislation in their state and ensure compliance.
- Child Safe Officer is to maintain the **WWCC Register** at Club or District levels.



# Reporting Incidents of Abuse/Suspensions of Harm

- Abuse – Physical, Sexual Abuse or Exploitation, Emotional, Psychological, Neglect – actions or behaviours by a perpetrator towards a child/youth
- Harm – impact/result of abuse experienced by child/youth
- It is the responsibility of all Lions Australia Club members to report abuse/suspensions of harm if they:
  - Witnessed the alleged abuse
  - Were informed of the alleged abuse by another member and it has not been reported
  - Were informed of the alleged abuse by the child/youth who was the victim
  - Were informed of the alleged abuse by the child/youth who was not the victim
  - Were informed of the alleged abuse by a non-member of Lions Australia
- **Child Safe Incident Report** needs to be completed and provided to the Child Safe Officer

Note: All immediate safety concerns are to be reported to Police as a matter of priority





# Types of Abuse

TIPS	
You should provide training and guidance to staff about the different types of abuse which can occur and the harm which can arise.	
TYPES OF ABUSE <i>Actions/behaviours by perpetrator</i>	RESULTING HARM <i>Impact experienced by the child</i>
<p><b>Physical abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hitting</li> <li>• Shaking / throwing</li> <li>• Burning / scalding</li> <li>• Biting</li> <li>• Causing bruising or fractures by excessive discipline</li> <li>• Poisoning</li> <li>• Giving children alcohol, illegal drugs or inappropriate medication</li> <li>• Domestic and family violence</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical</b> <i>Refers to the body</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruising</li> <li>• Fractures</li> <li>• Internal injuries</li> <li>• Burns</li> </ul>
<p><b>Psychological or Emotional abuse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scapegoating</li> <li>• Persistent rejection or hostility</li> <li>• Constant yelling, insults or criticism</li> <li>• Cultural affronts</li> <li>• Teasing / bullying / cyberbullying</li> <li>• Exposure to domestic and family violence</li> </ul>	<p><b>Psychological</b> <i>Refers to the mind and cognitive processes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learning and developmental delays</li> <li>• Impaired self-image</li> </ul>
<p><b>Neglect</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not giving a child sufficient food, housing, clothing, enough sleep, hygienic living conditions, health care and adequate supervision</li> <li>• Leaving children unattended</li> <li>• Children missing school</li> </ul>	<p><b>Emotional</b> <i>Refers to the ability to express emotions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Depression</li> <li>• Hypervigilance</li> <li>• Poor self esteem</li> <li>• Self-harm</li> <li>• Fear / anxiety</li> </ul>
<p><b>Sexual abuse or exploitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kissing or holding a child in a sexual manner</li> <li>• Exposing a sexual body part to a child</li> <li>• Talking in a sexually explicit way that is not age or developmentally appropriate</li> <li>• Exposing children to sexual acts or pornography</li> <li>• Making obscene phone calls or remarks to a child</li> <li>• Having sexual relations with a child or young person under 16 years of age</li> </ul>	<p>This is not a complete list of the types of abuse and resulting harm that may be experienced by children and young people, however it is to be used as a predictive tool for potential signs of harm. Each child's experience is different and depends on a range of factors, including the child or young person's age, the nature of harm, how long the abuse has been occurring, their relationship to the abuser, and their support networks</p>

# Record Keeping for Storage & Retention

- Register of Members – Leo Club members
- Working with Children Check Registers
- Winner Advisory Forms (Youth of the Year & Leo of the Year)
- Child Safe Incident Reports
- Written permissions from Parents/Caregivers
- Image Consent & Release Forms for Photographs and Videos
- Leo Club Child Safe Assessment Checklists
- Risk Management Plans for Camps, High Risk Activities/Special Events
- Attendance Lists – Camps etc



# Managing Risks Associated with our Youth Projects or any Activities/Events involving children and/or youth



# Scenario

## LEOs ATTENDING DISTRICT CONVENTION

- There are three Leos (2 male and 1 female – 15 to 17 year olds) from your sponsoring Leo Club at the Tooloola High School to attend the District Convention in Brisbane but their parents will not be able to go and so cannot provide the required transport or accommodation.
- These Leos will need to be provided with transport to Brisbane on the Friday and back home on Sunday afternoon and to be accommodated for two nights in Brisbane.
- Several members and partners from your Lions Club will be attending the Convention. Some of these members are heavy smokers.
- It is typical for conventioners to let their hair down and generally have a good time particularly at both the Friday and Saturday night social functions where alcohol will be on sale.
- Photos or video clips are usually taken by any of the conventioners throughout the weekend including during the evening socials and are encouraged to be provided for inclusion into the slide presentation on the projection screen during the closing ceremony which will later be posted to the conventioners to upload to the District public website. As has occurred in the past, it is not uncommon for some conventioners to upload related images/videos to Facebook sites and share with their circle of friends inside and outside of the Lions community.

***Identify the various issues that need to be considered and then outline what measures need to be implemented to ensure the safety and wellbeing of, and to prevent risk of harm to, these Leos attending the Lions District Convention.***



# Considerations in Managing Risks

- Parent/Caregiver Permissions
- Working with Children Check
- Transporting a child/young person
- Accommodation arrangements
- Supervision
- Smoking & Alcohol
- Venue & Functions
- Photography, Videoing & Social Media
- Mixed Age Groups
- Others??

