

Safeguarding Children Program

The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch

The Australian Childhood Foundation's (ACF) Safeguarding Children Program is excited to commence working with The Scout Association of Australia NSW Branch ("Scouts Australia NSW").

This engagement is built on the establishment of a partnership between Scouts Australia NSW and ACF, which aims to review, analyse and commence next steps for implementing a safeguarding approach to children and young people, based on the endorsed National Child Protection Policy and Procedures of Scouts Australia NSW and Creating Child Safe Institutions – recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.

The Safeguarding Children Program helps organisations to implement best practice policies and standards to protect children and young people in their care. The Program also helps organisations promote a culture that protects children and young people from abuse and exploitation.

This Program is a unique voluntary organisational development scheme for organisations who take seriously their duty of care to children and young people, as well as their families and community. The Safeguarding Program will assist Scouts Australia NSW to systematically increase its capacity to keep children and young people safe from abuse and exploitation while they participate in their suite of services and activities.

The Program personnel will support Scouts Australia NSW to:

- enhance the collective culture across the organisation to safeguard children and young people;
- review policies and practices to understand how children and young people are currently safeguarded;
- engage Scouts Australia NSW staff and volunteer members to hear their views of how children and young people are currently safeguarded; and
- explore strategies and a best approach for how all staff, management and volunteer members of Scouts Australia NSW can better safeguard and respond to children and young people into the future.

Through the Safeguarding Children Program, ACF staff will work alongside Scouts Australia NSW staff to undertake this review, analysis and strategy development.

We will work together to commence the next steps for Scouts Australia NSW to further enhance the safety and protection of children and young people across the organisation.

Remember

All **suspicious, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly** to the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Issues Management), the General Manager or the Child Protection Officer at the NSW State Office on: Tel: 02 9735 9000 or via ChildProtection@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Imminent Danger

If a young person is in imminent danger, the matter should be reported directly and immediately to NSW Police on **131 444**. Where a report is made to the police, you should also subsequently notify the NSW State Office.

