



[Trouble reading this email? click here](#)

Love Our Differences

Dear Scouting friends,

As volunteers in Scouts, and as members of very different and diverse communities, we are united by the desire to give every single young person the chance to have a go.

The protests around the world to support Black Lives Matter have been a stark reminder that there are still too many people being left behind. There are too many people who feel excluded from their community.

At Scouting, our door stands open to anyone who wishes to live by our Promise and Law.

We know every one of our youth members is different. We also know every one of them matters.

Scouts come from different backgrounds and cultures. This diversity is what makes us special. Our inclusiveness is something about which we should be very proud.



But we are not perfect.

There is a great saying: "You can't be what you can't see." It implies that you need to see diversity to appreciate its benefits. Seeing diverse individuals in Scouting reinforces our climate of acceptance and our wish to reflect our communities.

It's become increasingly clear how important it is to have a conversation about race and racism with children. We can all help to better identify and challenge racism if everybody has these conversations.

I know there are many Scout Leaders who are already doing this. They care deeply about the views of young people in Scouts and take time to listen to them, encourage them to talk, and give them the support they need to find their voice. These Leaders are supportive of including young people from different cultural communities than theirs, and they regularly step back to let others step forward and have a go.

For those of you who would like to start a conversation about racism, I encourage you to read the [Voices of Youth](#) blog, which shares ideas from young people around the world. Closer to home, you may like to share this [short video from CBeebies](#) with the younger members of your Scout Groups. It's a powerful and simple way of talking to children.

The marches across America, and across Australia, express solidarity about the way people are being treated. The breadth of the protests is testament to what is not right in our world, but it is also a promise that change is possible.

At Scouts NSW, we stand with those using their voices and peacefully calling for justice, fairness and racial equality.

To every person who has faced racism in the eye, we see you. We hear you. We stand with you.

Let's do our part to help the next generation learn to love our differences.

Yours in Scouting,

Neville Tomkins OAM JP
Chief Commissioner
Scouts Australia (NSW Branch)

To contact the Chief Commissioner, please email chief.commissioner@nsw.scouts.com.au.

Child Safety in Scouting

Scouts Australia NSW is committed to operating as a child safe organisation and implementing child safe policies and practices in accordance with the elements of a child safe institution outlined by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse report entitled Creating Child Safe Institutions.

Remember

All suspicions, concerns or allegations about criminal matters or child protection matters should be reported directly to the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy Chief Commissioner (Youth Safety, Compliance and Support), the CEO or the Child Protection Officer at the NSW State Office.

To make a report use the online [child protection form](#), call 02 9735 9000 or email 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.

You've received this email as a member of Scouts Australia NSW, or through your email address being the contact email provided for a member of Scouts Australia NSW.

Should you no longer wish to receive emails like this one, please contact the Members Services Team at the State Office with your email address and member number to have your membership record updated - info@nsw.scouts.com.au.

[To stop receiving these emails click here.](#)



www.nsw.scouts.com.au

© Scouts Australia NSW

