



POLICY

Child Safe Scouting Policy



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Document Information

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Document Amendment History

Version	Date	Section(s) Amended	Summary of Amendment
1.0	May 2023		Separation of the Policy document from QBSI 10 to comply with Document Hierarchy Standard
	August 2019	Whole document	QBSI 10.1 initial release in QBSI format



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1 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to state Scouts Queensland absolute commitment to child safe Scouting.

2 Background

Scouts Queensland endorses and accepts the “Child Protection Policy and Prescribed Procedures” of the Scout Association of Australia (“Scouts Australia”) but publishes this document consistent with our document hierarchy as the Scouts Queensland version.

This Scouts Queensland Policy shall in all respects be regarded as the primary reference for child protection matters in Queensland Branch with reference to the “Child Protection Policy and Prescribed Procedures” of the Scout Association of Australia where clarification is sought.

3 Policy statement

Scouts Queensland has a moral and legal duty of care to its Youth Members to provide a safe environment and protection from harm. A safe environment and protection from harm includes protection of Youth Members from Child Abuse.

All Adults in Scouting have a legislated obligation to protect Youth Members from Child Abuse on behalf of Scouts Queensland. Scouts Queensland shall ensure that this highest duty is considered above all else when recruiting and managing Adults.

Scouts Queensland is committed to an environment of **zero tolerance** toward child abuse which can present through bullying or neglect and child abuse includes emotional, physical, psychological or sexual abuse of any kind.

All Adults in Scouting must hold a current Blue Card. If deemed necessary by Scouts Queensland, an additional National Police check may be requested.

To protect the welfare of Youth Members, Scouts Queensland shall not proceed with an application for Membership of an Adult if there is any doubt concerning suitability.

Scouts Queensland mandates completion of the National on-demand SP-Child and SP-WHS training curriculum as part of the proficiency training requirements for all Adults and must be completed within the first three months of joining. Renewal of this training at three yearly intervals is also required to maintain membership.

The Scouts Australia SP-Child training module shall be used as the basis for training augmented by Scouts Queensland where required to cover relevant Queensland Legislation. Scouts Queensland will develop, disseminate and conduct training for all Adults in Scouting and Parents/Guardians in specific Child Protection processes supporting this Policy. This will facilitate the handling of questions, allegations, disclosures and reporting about Child Abuse.

Adults in Scouting must always treat children with dignity and respect and must endeavour to actively promote in word and deed every Child’s right to feel safe and cared for.

Scouts Queensland strongly encourages Adults to not place themselves at risk of perceived contravention of this Policy through wherever possible having at least two Adults present when supervising and conducting Scouting activities involving Children and where this is not possible reporting the circumstances to the person to whom they report.

Adults in Scouting must not take part in or tolerate any form of abuse of children, or any supporting form of behaviour which compromises the safety and wellbeing of children. Therefore, all Adults in Scouting must:



- Make every effort to provide an inclusive and safe environment for all children involved in Scouting activities including providing for care and safety of children with physical, intellectual, or sensory impairments.
- Respect the cultural values of all children and encourage and support their involvement from all backgrounds.
- Adhere to the Queensland Policy and any applicable legislative requirements.

All Adults in Scouting must immediately report:

- any conduct directly seen or suspected that does not comply with this Queensland Policy or comply with the Scouts Australia Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics that may result in child abuse; or
- any disclosure, allegation or suspicion of abuse of children whether it has occurred within a Scouting environment or not.

To protect the welfare of Youth Members, Scouts Queensland:

- Shall terminate the Membership of (or the employment of) any Adult in Scouting where an allegation or suspicion of child abuse has been proven through a court of law.
- May terminate the Membership of any Adult even if a Child Protection matter is not concluded or ultimately resolved with certainty.
- Shall immediately suspend the membership of a person who is the subject of any allegations of sexual abuse and report the matter to Police and if appropriate Child Safety Services for investigation (provide confirmation of this to the authorities and the victim).

Scouts Queensland will ensure that Youth Members receive training/advice (through the Scout Program) of their right to feel, and be safe, and the ways in which they may help to protect themselves and their peers.

Youth Members in Scouting must not take part in or tolerate any form of abuse of other Youth Members, or any form of behaviour which compromises the safety and wellbeing of Youth Members.

Children are encouraged to report any conduct that does not comply with this Policy and must be regularly reminded / informed through the Scout Program of their right to feel safe and what action they can take if they do not feel safe.

4 Scope

There are two dimensions to the scope of this policy:

- The policy applies to Scouts Queensland Members, Supporters, Staff and Contractors: and
- the policy is applicable to all aspects of the delivery and support of the Youth Program including all ancillary undertakings by volunteers and staff.

5 Terms and definitions

The following key terms and definitions are key to this Policy and are provided here for convenience. Please refer to the [Scouts Qld Glossary](#) for other terms not defined in this Policy.

Term	Definition
Child Abuse	An act or omission that endangers a Child's physical or emotional health, well-being or development and can occur as a single incident or multiple incidents over time

6 Monitoring and review

This Policy will be reviewed following a disclosure or suspicion of harm being reported and at least biennially.



A review of this Policy must be documented and should consider at least the following:

- The application of the Policy whether there are any changes necessary;
- Whether the Policy and associated procedures were followed;
- The effectiveness of the Policy and associated procedures in preventing or minimising harm to children and young people;
- The content and frequency of training associated with this Policy and associated procedures and whether any additional training requirements are identified;
- Whether any incidents relating to children and young people's risk management have occurred; and,
- The process used to manage any disclosure or suspicion and whether any change is required.

7 References

The primary references and legislation underpinning this Policy are listed in the following table

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UN Convention is the foundation for Child Protection and safety across the globe. - The fundamental principle is the recognition of Children's rights as human rights. - The Convention sets out a framework of minimum standards for the protection and wellbeing of Children. - Article 19 states "Parties shall protect the Child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse". - Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) 	
National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020	Developed by the Council of Australian Governments and uses a public health approach to place Children's interests at the centre of all policy and legislative development.	
Australian Legislation	In Australia, State and Territory governments are responsible for the administration and operation of Child Protection Services. Legislative Acts in each State and Territory govern the way such services are provided. The principal Child Protection Acts relevant to Queensland are listed below	
Jurisdiction	Principal Act	Other relevant Acts/Legislation
Queensland	Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working With Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld) - Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 (Qld) - Public Health Act 2005 (Qld) - Adoption Act 2009 (Qld) - Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)
	Queensland Criminal Code	Sections 229BB and 229BC

8 Related Scouts Queensland documents

Document Type	Document Title
Principles	CYM-PRI-01 Child Safe Scouting Principles
Standard	CYM-STD-01 Child Safe Scouting Membership Standard
Standard	CYM-STD-02 Child Safe Program Delivery Standard
Standard	CYM-STD-03 Child Safe Reporting Standard
Procedure	CYM-PRO-01 Child Safe Scouting Procedures