



## Keeping Children Safe in Recreation and Sport Let's show we care

- In December 2005 an amendment to the Child Protection Act of 1993 means that all people involved in recreation and sport, whether paid staff or volunteers, have an obligation to report any suspicions of child abuse or neglect based upon reasonable grounds
- Recreation and sporting groups have a responsibility to provide an encouraging environment in which the young people can **have fun, feel safe and be free from abuse, harassment or bullying** whilst they are participating
- The responsibility to protect children requires everyone involved in your group to gain awareness, understand policies and procedures and feel confident to consult the Child Abuse Report Line if you have concerns based upon reasonable grounds



## Children's Protection Act Amendment 2005

Organisations which provide services to children and young people, including sporting and recreational activities, are required to have

- strategies in place to prevent and minimise opportunities for child abuse
- to appropriately respond when abuse occurs, or is suspected
- all staff (paid or volunteers) are considered to be mandated notifiers
- criminal history checks for some prescribed positions needs consideration. Screening people working with children is essential.

By definition a mandated notifier is a person with a legal responsibility to report a suspicion of child abuse based upon reasonable grounds



## Child Safe Environments : Key Elements

- The organisation will have a Child Protection Policy that includes
- Recruitment of volunteers & employees (to include reference checks)
- Codes of conduct that specifies *un acceptable behaviours, ethical behaviours, professional boundaries*, processes to communicate concerns = *all members & volunteers know , are aware & sign off*
- Standards of care that prohibit *harassment, bullying, vilification*, or *humiliation* of a child or young person. In appropriate relationships or contact between volunteers / employees and children or young people
- All employees & volunteers are *able to identify & respond* to children at risk . *Procedures to deal with concerns* of abuse and or neglect



## Clubs and groups using your facility

- Do you have their undertaking and do they “sign” as acceptance of your facilities terms and conditions
- Do you promote your facility as one that strives to provide a fun, safe and enjoyable environment for all participants and in particular children
- Do you follow processes to ensure Private Providers who hire / use your facility are subject to an appropriate screening process (LGA)
- Do your Private Providers have a “Registered Code of Practice”
- Do you promote your commitment to Play by the rules (PBTR) and use resources to ensure everyone upholds codes of conduct



## Responsibility to provide Child Safe Environments

- Policies & procedures (in place / promoted / known )
- LGA has provided some guidelines / these will be up dated later in 2007
- Ensure you take sufficient steps to make the environments safe
- Under your “Duty Of Care” have you enlisted strategies to protect children from abusive behaviour and from people who may harm them
- Do your staff understand and passionately embrace their responsibilities to ensure that young people and children are safe and do they know how to respond to a suspicion of child abuse



## What information is given to the Child Abuse Report Line?

You may feel the need to simply consult with a person on the Child Abuse Report Line first but the following information will be very helpful to them

- Child's name, age, address (for all children in the family)
- Reason for believing injury / behaviour is result of abuse
- Assessment of immediate danger to child
- Description of injury / behaviour observed
- Current whereabouts of child or children
- Other relevant information about family / organisation



## Encourage risk management processes

Any effective risk management process would require a focus on the environment in which activities are conducted

- consider the outcomes you want to achieve
- consider the environment in which your organisation operates
- develop risk evaluation criteria
- identify stakeholders (children, those delivering service, members)

Evaluate the likelihood of risk occurring & then consider

- Use a rating chart/method to define high/medium/low levels risk
- Evaluate consequences if an incident did occur (based upon ratings)



## Example risk evaluation chart

<i>Risk level</i>	→ <i>Low risk</i>	→ <i>Medium risk</i>	→ <i>High risk</i>
<i>Client</i>	17yo	15yo	10yo
<i>Environment</i>	crowded oval	Caravan park	Billeting
<i>Activity</i>	Mixed soccer	Camp excursion	Carnival
<i>Supervision</i>	Constant adult	Occasional	Little or none

### Using these examples “rate”

- at which level your organisation would deem any potential risk
- identify options to deal with potential risk (select feasible/cost effective)
- Decide **who** implements / **what** strategies/ **when** to apply them and **how**



## Child Safe Environments

### Information and Contacts

- Play By The Rules [www.playbytherules.net.au](http://www.playbytherules.net.au)
- Australian Sports Commission - (02) 6214 1111 [www.ausport.gov.au](http://www.ausport.gov.au)
- Office for Recreation & Sport - 8416 6677 [www.recsport.sa.gov.au](http://www.recsport.sa.gov.au)
- Kids Helpline - 1800 551 800 [www.kidshelp.com.au](http://www.kidshelp.com.au)
- Youth Health Line - 1300 131 719
- Parents Helpline - 1300 364 100 [www.parentingsa.gov.au](http://www.parentingsa.gov.au)
- Child and Youth Health Services - 8303 1500 [www.cyh.com](http://www.cyh.com)
- Child Abuse Report Line - 131 478
- SA Police Sexual Assault Unit - 8207 5000