



Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club

CHILD SAFE/CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Document control	Master copy location :
Version : 28/04/2011 Version 1	5 Bayly Street Kensington Gardens SA 5068
File path :	D:\Netball Club\Policies\Child Protection Policy Morialta Document.docx
Signature of authorised person. Judith Johnson	
Review schedule :	30 September 2018



CHILD SAFE/CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

This Child Safety Policy was approved by the *Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club* committee on 30 September 2011 and endorsed by the *Morialta Uniting Church*. It is due to be reviewed on 30 September 2012.

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of committee and officials to child safety and establishing and maintaining child safe and child friendly environments.

Commitment to safety of young people

All young people who access or participate in the activities of the *Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club*, have a right to feel and be safe.

Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing our services and the welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where young people feel safe and enjoy learning.

Where personal contact is required as part of the training provided, this will be communicated to the young person prior to contact.

Context

It complies with our obligations under the Children's Protection Act 1993, including:

- Section 8B – 8D – Child Safe Environments and criminal history assessments for people working with children; and
- Section 11 – Mandatory reporting.

It also complies with the Child Safe Environments: Principles of Good Practice and Standards for dealing with information obtained about the criminal history of employees and volunteers who work with children issued by the Chief Executive of the Department for Families and Communities.

Scope

This policy applies to all officials, young people, visitors and individuals who access the services of the *Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club*.

Young people's rights to safety and participation

Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club's committee and officials encourage young people to express their views, and make suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect young people. We actively encourage all young people who access our services to 'have a say' about those things that are important to them. We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices.

We advise young people about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns young people, or their parents, raise with us.

Recruitment of committee and officials

Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club carefully considers applications for committee members which are appointed by the club's members at the AGM each year.

All officials are appointed by the committee.

We conduct criminal history assessments for people working with children, as set out in section 8B of the Children's Protection Act 1993. We ensure that criminal history information is dealt with in accordance with the standards developed by the Chief Executive of the Department for Families and Communities.

Support for officials

Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club seeks to attract and retain the best officials. We provide support and supervision so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. We have a code of conduct to provide guidance to our officials and other volunteers, all of whom acknowledge the requirements of the code.

Reporting and responding to suspected abuse and neglect

We, Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club will not tolerate incidents of child abuse.

We, Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club are responsible for ensuring that officials are aware how to make appropriate reports of abuse or neglect.

Officials must notify the Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78 as soon as practicable if they have a reasonable suspicion that a young person has been or is being abused or neglected.

We will also provide opportunities for officials to undertake child safe environment training.

A person does not necessarily exhaust his or her duty of care to a child by making a report to the Child Abuse Report Line – they may still have a role in supporting the child or young person. For example, officials and volunteers may also report any form of abuse to the committee of *Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club* and take all reasonable steps to keep the child and others safe.

The *Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club* will support any official that makes a report to the Child Abuse Report Line.

The *Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club* will have an identified Child Protection Contact Person.

Strategies to minimise risk

Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club takes steps to minimise the risks to children due to the actions or omissions of officials, volunteers or other people within our club. We review our risks regularly to address any new or emerging risks in order to maintain a safe environment for children.

Strategies we have implemented to minimise and control risks to children and young people include:

- High risk situations are addressed in our Code of Conduct
- All officials are required to abide by our child safe policy
- Committee, officials and other volunteers are aware of and are responsive to the particular needs and vulnerabilities of children and young people (such as age, language barriers, developmental capabilities, disability, mental health, trauma or abuse)
- All parents and caregivers are made aware that young children (not participating in the sporting programme) must be supervised at all times and are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.
- Officials provide clear age-appropriate or developmentally appropriate explanations to children and young people about the activities in which they are going to participate.
- Where training requires physical contact, officials will communicate this with the child, young person.
- Officials confirm the identity of any child participating in activities within the club.
- We respond to any concerns that children, or their families or carers raise with us quickly and fairly
- Officials understand their obligation to notify the **Child Abuse Report Line on 13 14 78** as soon as practicable if they have a reasonable suspicion that a child or young person has been or is being abused or neglected.
- We ensure a physically and socially safe environment for children and young people, that is free of any identifiable hazards.

Evaluation of these strategies and the development of additional strategies to minimise and control risks to children and young people occurs as part of our ongoing risk management process.

Harassment/bullying

Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club opposes all forms of harassment, discrimination and bullying. We take this issue seriously and encourage anyone who believes that they, or another person, has been harassed, discriminated against or bullied to raise this issue with Katie Dansie, as Child Safety Contact Officer, the player's representative or the committee.

Communication

Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club will ensure that everyone to whom this policy applies is aware of and has had an opportunity to read the policy.

Parents and/or caregivers are encouraged to discuss relevant sections of this policy with their children.

We also ask committee members and officials to sign a written statement indicating that they have read and will abide by our child-safe policy. We retain a copy of all signed statements.

Related Policies and Procedures

The following policies and procedures also support the *Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club* child safe policy:

Related policies include:

- Code of Conduct
- Template statement signed by employees indicating that they have read and will abide by *Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club*'s child safe policy
- Selection of committee and officials, including those relating to conducting criminal history assessment
- Occupational Health and Safety Policies.

Definitions of the following terms are included in the attached appendix: *Child, Child Abuse, Child Protection Contact Person, Trainer, Young Person.*

THE CHILD SAFE/CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

DEFINITIONS

Child (Young person) – A child means a person under 18 years of age (The Children’s Protection Act 1993).

Child Abuse – Children can be abused in different ways and child abuse includes a wide range of acts of omission and commission. The following is based on definitions in “Guidelines for Mandated Notifiers”, produced by Government of South Australia – Department for Families and Communities.

Physical Abuse – is commonly characterized by physical injury resulting from practices such as hitting, punching, kicking (marks from belt buckles, fingers); shaking (particularly young babies); burning (irons, cigarettes), biting, pulling out hair; alcohol or other drug administration.

Sexual Abuse – occurs when someone in a position of power to the child uses his/her power to involve the child in sexual activity. Behaviour can include sexual suggestion; exhibitionism, mutual masturbation, oral sex; showing pornographic material e.g. DVDs, internet; using children in the production of pornographic material; penile or other penetration of the genital or anal region; child prostitution.

Emotional Abuse – tends to be a chronic behavioural pattern directed at a child whereby a child’s self esteem and social competence are undermined or eroded over time. Behaviours may include devaluing, ignoring, rejecting, corrupting, isolating, terrorising, chronic or extreme domestic violence in the children’s presence.

Neglect – is characterized by the failure to provide for the child’s basic needs. Behaviours may include inadequate supervision of young children for long periods of time; failure to provide adequate nutrition, clothing or personal hygiene; failure to provide needed or appropriate health care/medical treatment; disregard for potential hazards in the home; forcing the child to leave home early; allowing children to engage in chronic truancy.

Child Protection Contact Person – a person appointed by the committee of **the Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club** to be responsible for child protection matters and to ensure that **the Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club** child protection procedures conform to the requirements of the relevant jurisdiction.

Criminal history assessment: a decision about whether a person is suitable to work with children based on the person’s criminal history (if any) and the assessed risk of harm to children who receive the service.

Trainer – any person over the age of 18 who is employed by **the Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club** and is responsible for the care and safety of children in a recognized training course delivered under **the Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club** name.

Young person – term used instead of the word child to describe a person under the age of 18.

This document has been adapted for the Morialta Uniting Church Netball Club from the template produced by Families SA. It was produced as part of Service Skills SA’s Child Safe Environments Reframing the Future project in 2008 and updated in October 2010.

www.servicesskillssa.com.au