

*This is the report I spoke about
Last season please
re-read
Jennifer
Feb 10/24*

Child Protection/Child Safe update/ Report

Soldiers SLSC November Meeting 2023

This is a new and necessary element to our Clubs functioning .

It is not optional it is regarded by the Branch, State and Australian SLSA as imperative to the management and safe guarding of our members, particularly our younger members.

Our 'Ruling Bodies' have now instructed the many Surf Life Saving Clubs that they must start to address the issue of Child Safe practices.

It is our Duty of Care to ensure Safe practices are conducted while these young people are in our care.

Implementing the Child Safe Program

Make a Commitment

Follow the Code of Conduct

Report

Educate and raise awareness

Engage and communicate

Screen and recruit the right people.

WHAT WE CAN START TO DO AND WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE

I have attached a Club Commitment Statement to be signed by the President and the Admin or Committee member

Child Safe as a regular item on the Agenda

The Child Protection Guidelines Booklet have been placed in the Office the First Aid Room and presented at the Meeting in September

Have all Committee, Age Managers, even members done the Child Safe Online Awareness EARNING MODULE ONE

Code of Conduct should be put onto the Web page and on Notice Board

Child Safe Posters should be put on the Notice Board and on the Club Toilets

JAC Director Matt White Jennifer Falconer, and the Director of Education Emma Griffith prior to the commencement of the Nippers season held a meeting with the age managers where the Child Safe Guidelines were explained

Club Check list (this is done by Committee members) find attached p12 Child Safe Guidelines

Risk Assessment done and completed each year.

The Club has through the JAC Director (who spoke to the parents) arranged the use of the club toilets so as to safe guard the Children after Nippers. Although this has worked we probably need to refine it some more, but it is a start. I thought a simple laminated sign on the doors of both male and female toilets explaining Nippers only while the sign remains on the door. The reason for this is that the Nippers have been finishing earlier and if we keep to the 11 am it does not fit the purpose.

An example of the sign for the toilets

WE APOLOGISE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE TO MEMBERS AND ASK YOUR SUPPORT THE
NIPPERS WILL USE THE TOILETS DURING THE TIME THE SIGN IS ON THE DOOR **NO ADULTS**
DURING THIS TIME TOILETS AND SHOWERS ARE AT THE NORTHERN END OF THE CLUB
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Safe Environment

All must be aware of the responsibilities in keeping Children and Young People safe while in our care. Safe from bullying abusive language, coercive behavior.

Three things to keep in mind

Monitor and ask questions if suspicious

Listen and Believe

Follow the Code of Conduct

Talk to the young people ask if there is anything that makes them feel unsafe uncomfortable get their input. Talk to the kids generally get their feedback this is important on anything that they want to talk about it may help the club improve and may point to a more serious situation.

The Child Safe Policy 6.04 This is the SLSA Policy.

This Policy is made under Clause 39 of SLSA Constitution. It is binding on all Members of SLSA and is to be interpreted in accordance with the SLSA Constitution. It is a Membership directive under SLSA Regulation 4.

I have attached a copy.

We do not investigate any issue, we listen take notes verbatim from the child.

PPA is notified Person of Authority within the Club POLICE are notified then Branch

PAL 131414 SLS confidentiality online via reporting.sls.com.au

<https://aifs.gov.au/resources/mandatory-reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect>

Of importance the CRIMES ACT 1990 Sect316

316 Concealing serious indictable offence

(A) An adult who knows or believes that a SERIOUS INDICTABLE OFFENCE HAS BEEN COMMITTED BY ANOTHER PERSON

(B) WHO KNOWS OR BELIEVES THAT HE OR SHE HAS INFORMATION THAT MIGHT BE OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE IN SECURING THE APPREHENSION OF THE OFFENDER OR THE PROSECUTION OF CONVICTION OF THE OFFENDER FOR THAT OFFENCE

© WHO FAILS WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE TO BRING THAT INFORMATION TO THE ATTENTION OF A MEMBER OF THE NSW POLICE FORCE OR OTHER APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY

***IS GUILTY OF AN OFFENCE**

CONCEALING A CHILD ABUSE OFFENCE IS AN OFFENCE UNDER SECTION 316A

A SECTION 316A OFFENCE CAN ONLY BE COMMITTED BY AN ADULT

For my part as the Child Safe person I will be available on the beach when possible to help out with the Nippers if needed and at times to observe and talk with the kids (which I love) and parents. The aim is to create an atmosphere of caring and trust within the club, while keeping in mind the Child Safe requirements, and to see that it is fun for the children.

JENNIFER FALCONER

CHILD SAFE

Implementing the Child Safe Program: Responsibilities of Clubs

All clubs have a responsibility to create child-safe environments and minimise the risk of harm and/or abuse of children and young people. Everyone who participates in and/or contributes to a club has some responsibility to ensuring and maintaining safe environments for children and young people.

As part of our SLSA Child Safe Program, we have identified six key action areas for clubs to take responsibility to develop and/or refine strategies and initiatives as part of their approach to keeping children and young people safe.

We know, based on current research and evidence, clubs that implement the strategies we have identified in the Child Safe Program, are more likely to provide safer and more enjoyable environments for children and young people, compared with clubs that do not implement such strategies.

These six key areas are outlined in Figure 2 below. To assist SLS clubs in developing and/or refining their approach to keeping children and young people safe, this Handbook includes worksheets and resources to help guide you through the process. Each step indicates a corresponding worksheet to help you implement this step in your club.

Figure 2: Six key action areas for keeping children and young people safe

1. Make a commitment

Clubs and members have a responsibility to recognise and understand their roles in providing a safe environment for all, including children and young people. Recognising roles and responsibilities is a first step for clubs and members in the child safe commitment, and informing and educating those in Surf Life Saving about the 'Child Safe Program' and their responsibilities.

See Worksheet 1

2. Follow the Code of Conduct

All members should be made aware of the General Code of Conduct and the Code of Conduct for Persons in Positions of Authority in dealing with Children or Young People. Both of these Codes can be found in the SLSA Member Protection Policy 6.05 & Child Safe Policy 6.04. These Codes represent the minimum standards of member behaviour and must be complied with at all times.

See Worksheet 2

3. Report

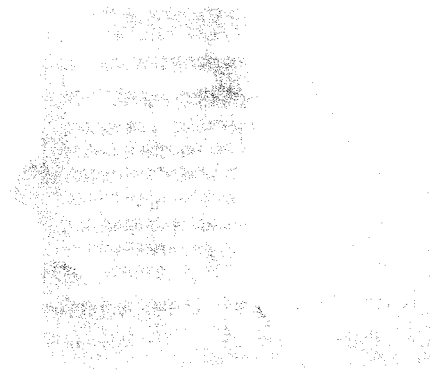
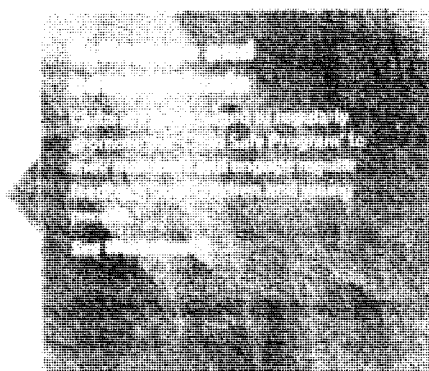
Clubs are encouraged to educate all members on where and how to report. Members should know where to report their concerns. Members should also be encouraged and supported to question and challenge inappropriate behaviour. Members should feel confident to report when a child discloses abuse or harm, or when something does not feel right.

See Worksheet 3

6. Screen and recruit the right people

Where applicable, members must have a valid and relevant Working with Children Check. Clubs employing staff must follow the Safeguarding Children and Young People recruitment and screening guidelines found at www.sls.com.au/childsafe

See Worksheet 6 & 7



These Worksheets have been designed to highlight the importance of each step, provide an overview of the resources SLSA has developed to support each area, and to help you and your clubs think about how you can best implement strategies to create safe and inclusive environments for our children and young people – the next generation of SLS.



Club Checklist

Child Safe

The following checklist will help you identify areas of child-safety which your club might need to work on.

Ideally you should answer yes to each question. If you answer no or are unsure, you should speak with your State Centre Member Protection Officer, or alternatively visit www.sls.com.au/childsafes for resources and guidelines which may assist you.

Club Checklist		
Are your club members aware of the Child Safe Policy and know where to find it, through the promotion by the Club, such as emails, posters in the Club, pre-Season reminders?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Has your club adopted the SLSA Code of Behaviour for participants, parents, volunteers and staff that are relevant and feasible for your club, as outlined in the Child Safe Policy & Program?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does your club have a Member Protection Information Officer or a Child Protection Officer who is dedicated to ensuring the safety of children?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Do you have set policies or procedures within your club to allow youth and juniors to provide feedback and be involved in club decisions?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Has your whole committee & Board undertaken the Child Safe Online Awareness module?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Have all Age Managers, who interact with Children and Young People, undertaken the mandatory Child Safe Awareness Course?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Do you feel your club is doing all it can to create a child-safe and child-friendly environment?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Has your club adopted process surrounding communication with children and young people as outlined in the Child Safe Policy?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Has your club conducted screening of the Club's volunteers and/or employed staff in key positions in accordance with the Child Safe Policy screening requirements?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Have you maintained accurate screening records and stored them securely?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Are all new members and parents made aware of your Club's commitment to the Child Safe Program and your clubs Code of Behaviour?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Does your club discuss the Child Safe Program with all the children and young people within the club and advise them where to go to speak to someone if something does not feel right?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Is child-safety a regular discussion topic at your clubs Committee meetings?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Is your club prominently displaying your Club's commitment and the SLS Child Safe Posters?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Do your club members know how to report suspicions or allegations of child-abuse?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Do you feel if an incident or suspicion of child-abuse was to occur at your club it could ensure its obligations were met?	☐ Yes	☐ No
Are you providing regular information to members regarding child-safety?	☐ Yes	☐ No



CHILD SAFE

Welcome to the September 2024 SLSNSW Child Safe e-Newsletter which focuses on:

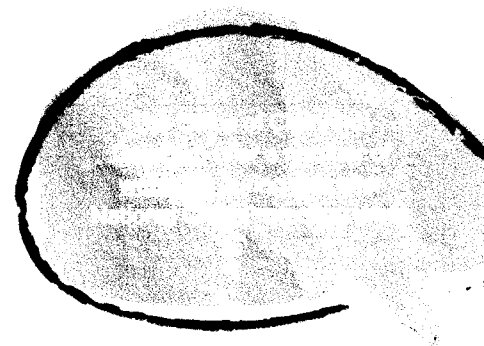
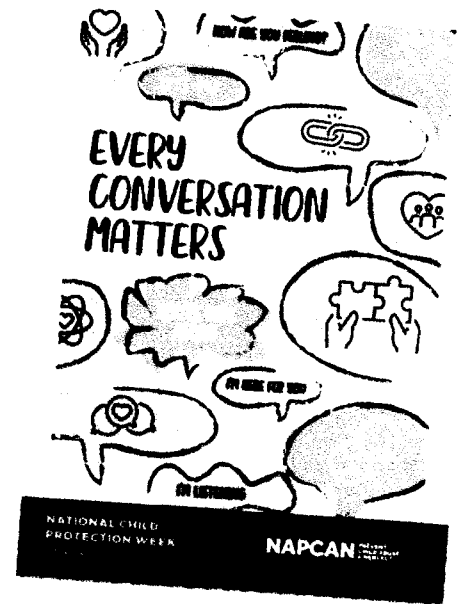
- National Child Protection Week (1-7 Sept)
- Child Safe Risk Management; and
- New resources to assist your club to deliver child safe activities.

The theme of National Child Protection Week this year is 'Every Conversation Matters'

In Surf Life Saving, conversations can be formal or informal, planned or incidental, face to face or via social media. All conversations are important opportunities to empower, inform and protect children and young people. Thank you for all the conversations you have with children, young people and members of your club to help improve child safe practices. It's important to recognise the positive impact you make on protecting children and young people.

It's equally important to recognise how conversations or comments, can intentionally or unintentionally increase child safe risks. Children and young people need to know what inappropriate conversations may sound and feel like, know who they can speak to if they feel unsafe and know they are listened to when they do speak up.

In this e-Newsletter we will highlight risk areas and resources to support you and your club with Child Safe Risk Management.



Communication is Key

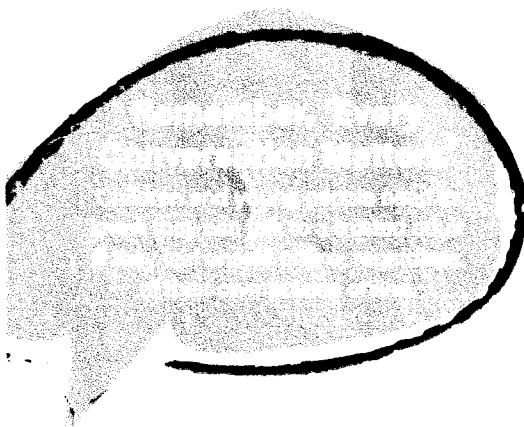
When communicating with children and young people online, it is vitally important that you help keep children and yourself safe. The Child Safe Guidelines provide an overview of the do's and don'ts of electronic communication, and this can be shared with all members who engage with children and young people (patrol captains, coaches, trainers, age managers or team managers).

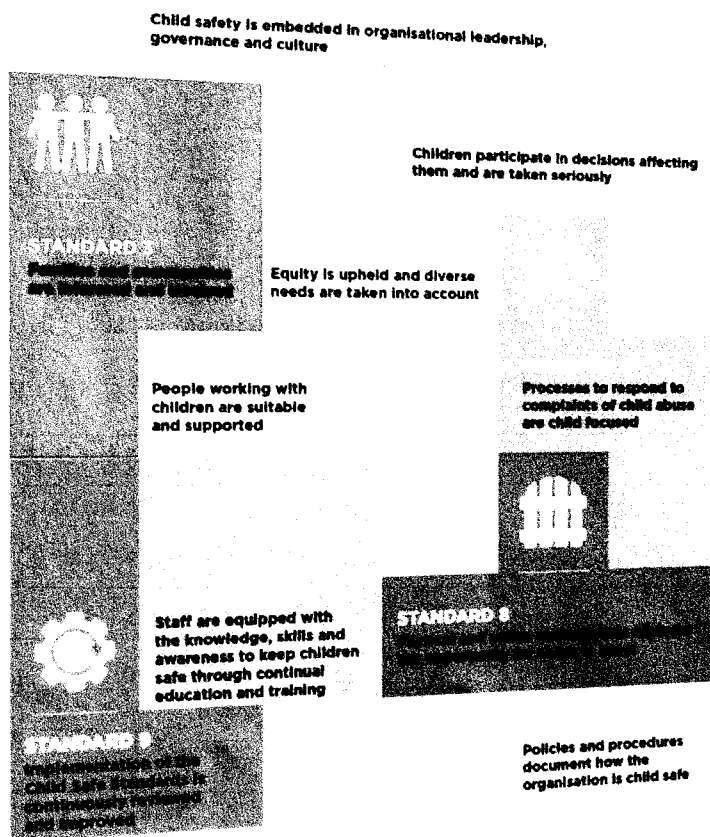
Do

- ✓ try to communicate through the parent/guardian rather than the Child or young person
- ✓ restrict communication, if communication with a child or young person is necessary, to issues directly associated with delivering services, activities or programs that are SLS related, such as advising that training is cancelled
- ✓ try to communicate in a group text rather than texting a child or young person individually
- ✓ inform the parent or guardian or Persons in Position of Authority within your club if a child or young person communicates with you outside your role, and kindly advise the child or young person that that behaviour is inappropriate.

Don't

- befriend the child or young person on social media
- ask a child or young person to not tell their parents or carers when you have communicated with them
- send photos or videos directly to a child, young person or to another person without the prior authority of their parent or guardian
- upload or publish still/moving images or audio recordings of children or young people without the prior authorisation of their parent or guardian



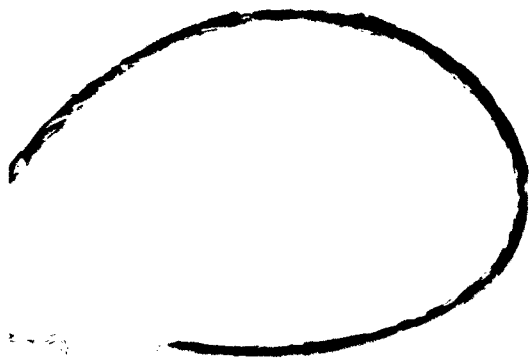


Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards support your club to make Surf Life Saving a safe place for children. SLSNSW and the Office of the Children's Guardian have a range of resources to assist you with meeting these standards.

Office of Children's Guardian online Child Safe Self-Assessment

This resource assists you to identify your club's strengths and provides a guide and strategies to support your club to implement the Child Safe Standards. The self-assessment takes around 30 minutes to complete, and your responses hold no legal or regulatory implications for you or your club.



Child abuse can occur when the physical or online environment creates opportunities for an adult to isolate a child without supervision. The risk of abuse, including grooming, can increase in likelihood;

- in secluded or unsupervised areas
- in situations where children are alone with adults or have limited supervision e.g. children travelling alone with a person in a bus or car, overnight trips
- when the do's and don'ts of electronic communication are not followed.

SLSNSW Club Child Safe Risk Management Document

A new resource to assist Club Executives and Child Safe Coordinators to review club practices in line with the Child Safe Standards – specifically relating Standard 8 which focuses on minimising the opportunity for abuse to occur in physical and online environments. The document assists clubs to identify areas that may pose an increased risk to child safety and provides strategies to reduce the risk of abuse or other harm to children and young people.

Child Safe Activity Planning Guide

A new resource to assist members planning activities involving children and young people, including social events, day trips, overnight stays or team travel to carnivals. The activity planning guide provides a list of potential risk areas, management strategies and links to template communication documents to assist in making activities more child safe.



Educating and empowering children and young people is an important part of child safe risk management

Remember, every leader and adult member sets the standard for your club and shows children and young people;

- what feeling safe and respected means; and
- the standard of behaviour they should expect from all members, adults and child safe clubs.



Bathroom and Change Room Signage

These are new resources to assist you to inform members about expected Child Safe behaviours around bathrooms and change rooms. They may assist you when implementing strategies to manage the Child Safe Standards, particularly Standard 8.

We understand every club is unique and has different needs and resources. Our aim is to provide you with a range of wording options for posters that you can adapt to suit the needs of your club, members and situations. We are happy to assist with selecting or adapting the wording to meet your club's needs.

Please contact us at memberervices@surf lifesaving.com.au.

SLS Child Awareness Charter

With the aim of ensuring the safety of children and young people in SLSNSW clubs, the following charter is to be displayed in all SLSNSW clubs and used as a guide for all club members.

Working with Children Check (WWCC)

The WWCC is a mandatory requirement for all SLSNSW club members who have direct contact with children and young people. It is a criminal offence to fail to obtain a WWCC for any SLSNSW club member who has direct contact with children and young people.

SLSNSW Executive Training Calendar

12 Sept – SLS Child Safe – Introduction to child safety in clubs (6pm)

15 Oct – SLS Child Safe – Implementation of best practice strategies including examples from clubs across NSW. (6pm)

14 Nov – SLS Good Sports Club – Alcohol and Drug Foundation's Good Sports Program – covers alcohol, drugs, smoking, mental health and safe transport (6pm)



Feedback, Reporting Concerns or Lodging Complaints

If you feel unsafe or have any concerns before, during or after the activity contact the Activity Organiser
MPIO, or a trusted adult. You can also make an online complaint
through [SLS online complaint](#) portal.

Behaviour expected

All members must adhere to the [SLS Code of Conduct](#) and treat others with respect. Harassment, bullying and disrespectful behaviour will not be tolerated.

I Agree / Do not agree to follow the [SLS Code of Conduct](#).

Activity and Transport

I Consent / Do not consent to participate in _____ as described above. This consent includes the relevant accommodation arrangements and supervision.

I Consent / Do not consent to travel to and from the Activity by _____

Media – Photo/Video/Live Streaming

I Consent / Do not consent to respectful and appropriate images being taken of me and being used for club publications and social media including, but not limited to Facebook, website, newsletters.

I know I can withdraw my consent at any time by contacting the Activity Organiser.

Member signature	Parent / Guardian signature (for members U18)
Date	Date

Risk Waiver

In the case of an emergency, if it is impractical to communicate with me or my emergency contacts, I authorise the SLS activity staff to arrange medical or surgical treatment for me, as may be deemed necessary for my immediate health and safety.

I understand that although _____ and its service providers attempt to minimise any risk of personal injury within practical boundaries, accidents do happen, and all physical activities carry the risk of personal injury.

I acknowledge and accept there is an inherent risk of personal injury in physical activities that will be undertaken as part of the program.

Member signature	Parent / Guardian signature (for members U18)
Date	Date

SOLDIERS BEACH SLSC CHILDREN AND YOUTH RIGHTS

The RIGHT to voice an OPINION

- Which will be listened to respectfully and acknowledged**

The RIGHT to ask QUESTIONS

- encouraged to participate in Surf Life Saving Activities and interact and ask questions**

The RIGHT to be ACCEPTED

- Inclusion and acceptance of others regardless of culture and ability**

The RIGHT to be SAFE

- aggressive behaviours towards or against any member is unacceptable**
- that all due diligence has been taken to ensure their safety**
- an environment of encouragement will be displayed at all times**
- leaders to be trained and qualified**
- parents to be available for their children during SLSC events**

The RIGHT to LEARN

- Life skills will be taught in an appropriate for age style, by acknowledged members**
- physical activities will be encouraged and conducted in a non-aggressive manner.**

SOLDIERS SLSC RIGHTS OF THE YOUNG PERSON contd

The RIGHT to a TIDY and SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- Instructions to be given at an age appropriate style**
- Safety issues to be explained for beach, Surf and Club amenities**

The RIGHT to be HAPPY while attending Surf Club events

- Leaders to ensure that kindness, caring, and a helping attitude will be displayed by all participants.**
- ensure that a young person is not forced to comply with training, water or beach activities, but rather with encouragement and care**
 - remembering that not all young people experience things in the same manner**

Implementing the Child Safe Program:

Responsibilities of Clubs

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These Worksheets have been designed to highlight the importance of each step, provide an overview of the resources SLSA has developed to support each area, and to help you and your clubs think about how you can best implement strategies to create safe and inclusive environments for our children and young people – the next generation of SLS.

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Child Safe

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Ideally you should answer yes to each question. If you answer no or are unsure, you should speak with your State Centre Member Protection Officer, or alternatively visit www.sls.com.au/childsafeguidelines for resources and guidelines which may assist you.

This Club Checklist should be completed annually by Club Management prior to the start of Season.

Club Checklist

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Has your whole committee & Board undertaken the Child Safe Online Awareness module?	☐ Yes	☐ No
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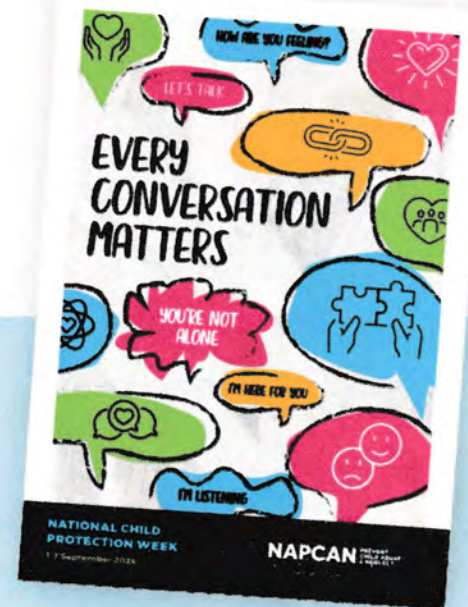
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It's equally important to recognise how conversations or comments, can intentionally or unintentionally increase child safe risks. Children and young people need to know what inappropriate conversations may sound and feel like, know who they can speak to if they feel unsafe and know they are listened to when they do speak up.

In this e-Newsletter we will highlight risk areas and resources to support you and your club with Child Safe Risk Management.



The Office of Children's Guardian offer a number of webinars during and after National Child Protection Week

Communication is Key

When communicating with children and young people online, it is vitally important that you help keep children and yourself safe. The Child Safe Guidelines provide an overview of the do's and don'ts of electronic communication, and this can be shared with all members who engage with children and young people (patrol captains, coaches, trainers, age managers or team managers).

Remember, 'Every Conversation Matters'

Children and young people need to know they can talk to a trusted adult if they feel unsafe online, regardless of their own actions online.

Do

- ✓ try to communicate through the parent/guardian rather than the Child or young person
- ✓ restrict communication, if communication with a child or young person is necessary, to issues directly associated with delivering services, activities or programs that are SLS related, such as advising that training is cancelled
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SURF LIFE SAVING
NEW SOUTH WALES





Child Safe Standards

The [Child Safe Standards](#) support your club to make Surf Life Saving a safe place for children. SLSNSW and the Office of the Children's Guardian have a range of resources to assist you with meeting these standards.

Office of Children's Guardian online [Child Safe Self-Assessment](#)

This resource assists you to identify your club's strengths and provides a guide and strategies to support your club to implement the [Child Safe Standards](#). The self-assessment takes around 30 minutes to complete, and your responses hold no legal or regulatory implications for you or your club.

Child Safe Standard 8

the physical and online environment minimises the opportunity for abuse (or other types of harm) to occur.

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Please contact us at memberservices@surflifesaving.com.au.

SLS Child Awareness Course

A reminder that all patrolling members over the age of 18 years are encouraged to complete the Child Safe Awareness training this season. This will become a requirement in the 2025/26 season.

Working with Children Check (WWCC)

The WWCC requirements have been updated on the SLS website. To see which members need a WWCC for their role, please review the flowchart on page 3.

Clubs are reminded to verify WWCCs and re-verify WWCC renewals online and update SurfGuard.

SLSNSW Executive Training Calendar

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Child Safe Standards Social Tiles

The OCG have created a range of social media tiles you can add to your website to promote that you are a Child Safe club. This can help increase awareness for your members and help deter potential offenders. This is an important part of Child Safe Risk Management.