

WORKSHEET 1: MAKE A COMMITMENT

Your Club's Commitment To Child Safe

We are asking our clubs to join us in making a commitment, specifically, a Commitment Statement for Keeping Children and Young People Safe.

Action Plan

- Identify a club committee member to take leadership for overseeing the implementation of the club's development/refinement of approach to keeping children and young people safe
- Ensure 'Child Safe' is included on your club committee agenda
- Distribute Handbook, Worksheet 1, draft Commitment Statement to club committee with meeting papers for review
- Encourage discussion at your committee meeting and consider any implications for club practices
- Once Commitment Statement is approved/endorsed, follow up with communication to club.

Whats Next?

We encourage your club to think about ways to put your Commitment into practice.

- Some strategies include: Post the Commitment somewhere prominent on your club website
- Promote the Commitment in your club newsletter and/or via social media
- Continuously reflect on club practice to ensure the Commitment is adhered to at all times
- Schedule an annual review of the Commitment club committee to ensure practice is maintained and continuously improved.

Why Is A Commitment Statement Important?

In the protection of children from abuse and harm it is recommended that your club clearly and publicly makes a commitment to keeping children and young people safe. A Commitment Statement is an important first-step in:

- Providing a safe environment for all, including children and young people
- Taking an inclusive approach to all activities
- Educating and informing those within your club and the wider community about your club's child safe responsibilities.

We have included the SLSA Commitment Statement below as an example of the approach we have taken at the national level. This Commitment Statement now exists as an important component in our overall SLSA Member Protection Policy and Child Safe Policy.

Developing & Endorsing A Commitment Statement For Your Club

To help you with this important step, we have developed an editable Commitment Statement you can tailor for your club.

To get started on your child safe development/refinement journey, we encourage you to include 'Child Safe' as a standing item on your club committee agenda. It is a good idea to discuss approving and endorsing a Commitment Statement the first time this item is discussed at your meeting.



CHILD SAFE COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Our Club:

- is committed to the safety and wellbeing of every child and young person who takes part in our activities, programs, events or services
- is committed to providing children and young people with a positive and nurturing experience
- will support families and the community to promote the healthy development and wellbeing of all children
- will strive to ensure that children and young people are protected from abuse and harm
- will work to create an environment in which children and young people are safe and feel safe at all times
- will listen to children and young people and address any concerns that they raise with us
- will support our members and the community to report any suspicion, or concern in relation to the mistreatment, or potential mistreatment, of a child or young person will challenge inappropriate behaviour of any of its members or members of the community
- will ensure all children and young people, no matter what cultural ethnicity, language, religion or disability, shall be able to participate in surf lifesaving in a fun and safe environment will appoint a Member Protection Information Officer, or equivalent, and ensure this person is trained on the obligations and responsibilities with respect to safeguarding children and young people
- will strive to ensure that persons in a position of authority do not harm, abuse or exploit children or young people who are involved within our club
- may not ask for consent to disclose information to police or an external child protection agency in the event we have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person.

As part of our commitment to keeping children and young people safe, our club:

- is committed to supporting parents and carers to protect their children and young people
- will offer assistance that builds on a family's strengths and make up, is sensitive to their culture and religious beliefs and empowers them to meet the changing needs of their children and young people
- is committed to communicating honestly and opening with parents and carers about the wellbeing and safety of their children and young people
- will promote and distribute information to parents and carers about our child safe commitment to children and young people as part of an introduction to our club
- endeavours to be transparent in our decision-making, with parents and carers, as long as doing so does not compromise the safety of a child/young person or breach the SLSA Privacy Policy.

This commitment was approved and endorsed by our club on:

Club President

Club Secretary/Committee Member

Signature

Name

Date

