

Inverell Bushwalking Club Incorporated

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY - AUGUST 2004

INVERELL BUSHWALKING CLUB INCORPORATED HAS A CHILD PROTECTION POLICY AND GUIDELINES WHICH STATES -

It is recognised that the issue of protecting children from abuse is a responsibility we must all undertake, especially when children participate in sport and recreation. Our club is committed to the safety, welfare and well being of children. We aim to promote a safe environment for children and to assist all members and volunteers to recognise child abuse and report it.

Activity leaders are required to complete the Prohibited Employment Declaration and will be made aware of their responsibilities in providing a safe environment. We acknowledge that THE PROHIBITED EMPLOYMENT DECLARATION is a Government form which CANNOT BE AMENDED although we have added our club logo.

Our leaders and our Club are expected to manage risks of harm to children with strategies for Child Protection and intervention if necessary. We have informed our leaders that it is an offence for volunteers not to declare that they are a prohibited person or if they become one. As a prohibited person by law must not work with children, in our case they must not lead walks or activities if children are present.

Our club will manage risks of child abuse by awareness of the issues and communication, leading to understanding, recognition and management of the issues and showing the way to reduction of the incidence. We understand that everybody should be aware of the definitions and indicators of child abuse and foster open communication to create confidence in recognising and reporting incidences. These may be incidences that have occurred away from and not connected with the club but become obvious during club activities. Adults should avoid being alone with a child especially in an isolated setting or during travel or changing. Lack of adequate supervision and equipment, particularly in risky activities, is a form of neglect and abuse.

Our club is aware of the types and indicators of child abuse, which include physical abuse, the non-accidental harm of a child resulting in physical injuries, emotional abuse which may psychologically harm a child, sexual abuse which is any sexual act or threat imposed on a child by an older person, and domestic violence, both resulting in psychological harm, and neglect where basic care is not given or supervision is lacking.

A club official has been designated Child Protection Officer and suspected breaches will be reported to this person who will report the matter to the Dept of Community Services and the NSW police, following up with written notification within 24 hours. Confidentiality will be maintained. If the designated officer is not available, then the most senior official available in the club will be notified. If proceedings involving child abuse are completed against a volunteer, the Commission for Children and Young People will be notified.

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