



## **KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA DISTRICT INC.**

### **Child Protection Policy**

**The Mission of Kiwanis International (adopted by Kiwanis International Australia District Inc.) is**

**“As a thriving organization of men, women and youth, we are dedicated to  
Serving the Children of the World and improving the quality of life worldwide.”**

#### **Statements of Principle**

**Kiwanis International Australia District Inc. (“Kiwanis”) is committed to the safety and well being of all children (and adults) with whom our members and volunteers come into contact. We acknowledge, support, encourage and hold sacred the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure that a “child safe” environment is maintained at all times.**

**We also support the rights and well being of our members and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants in our projects and activities.**

**In all aspects of Kiwanis operations all reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that the rights of children, particularly the right to be safe from abuse of any nature, are protected and observed to the maximum extent possible.**

**Effective risk management procedures and strategies must be maintained. These should include, among other things, appropriate procedures for the recruitment and screening of members, the evaluation of risk involved in any proposed activity, program or project, especially those involving children, and for the planning and execution of such activities, programs or projects. There must also be a Code of Conduct governing the conduct of members and volunteers in their dealings with children and strict adherence to that Code.**

**We acknowledge that, despite the utmost vigilance, instances of child abuse can occur. It is imperative that effective procedures are in place to enable and encourage the expedient reporting of suspicions and instances of child abuse and to ensure that such reports are properly and effectively managed.**

**The issue of child protection is a matter which should be the responsibility of all members of Kiwanis and appropriate awareness and education programs must be maintained in order to ensure that members are at all times alert to the issue. This involves ensuring that all members are aware of the contents of this Policy document and the related Code of Conduct.**

**Definitions:**

**In this Policy:**

**“Abuse” means any form of physical or emotional abuse or exploitation.**

**“Child” means a person under the age of 18 years and “children” has a corresponding meaning.**

**“Kiwanis” and “Kiwanis International Australia District Inc.” means each and every Kiwanis Club within the Kiwanis International “Australia District” and each and every member (“active” or otherwise) of those clubs;**

**“Member(s)” means a member (“active” or otherwise) of any Kiwanis Club within the Kiwanis International “Australia District;”**

**“Rights of the Child” includes, but is not limited to, the right to be safe from neglect, exploitation and emotional or physical abuse.**

**“Volunteer(s)” means any person involved, at the invitation of a member or members, in a Kiwanis activity or project other than as a member.**

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## **KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA DISTRICT INC.**

### **Code of Conduct**

#### **for Members and Volunteers in relation to Projects or Activities Involving Children.**

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Serving the Children of the World and improving the quality of life worldwide.”**

**Kiwanis is committed to the safety and well being of all children and young people with whom our members and volunteers come into contact. We acknowledge, support, encourage and hold sacred the rights of the child and will act without hesitation to ensure that a “child safe” environment is maintained at all times.**

**We also support the rights and well being of our members and volunteers and encourage their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for all participants in our projects and activities.**

#### **Members and volunteers must at all times:**

- **conduct themselves in a manner consistent with their position as a representative of Kiwanis International;**
- **conduct themselves in a manner which presents a positive role model to children,**
- **ensure that the rights of the child are protected and maintained;**
- **adhere strictly to the organizational policy relating to the safety of children as outlined in the Kiwanis Child Protection Policy ;**
- **treat all children and young people with respect and be alert to the manner in which they respond or react;**
- **raise any concern or problem relating to the safety of children with the relevant Club President, Divisional Lieutenant Governor or designated Child Safety Officer as soon as possible.**
- **ensure that any allegation or suspicion of abuse is recorded and acted upon;**

**Members and volunteers must not:**

- **engage in rough physical games including horseplay;**
  - **engage in sexual activity of any kind with or in the presence of a child;**
  - **hold, kiss, cuddle or touch children in an inappropriate or culturally insensitive way;**
  - **make sexually suggestive comments to a child, even as a joke;**
  - **allow themselves to be the only adult present when with a child or children engaged in a Kiwanis activity or project unless this is specifically sanctioned by Kiwanis policy governing the specific activity or project;**
  - **do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves (such as going to the toilet or changing clothes) unless there is no alternative and then only in the presence of another adult of the opposite sex if at all possible;**
  - **meet with or invite a child to meet with them outside the program activity unless this is specifically sanctioned by Kiwanis policy governing the specific activity or project;**
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