

MELTON BUSHWALKERS INC.

(Registration No. A0020535X)

Child Safe Policy

Introduction

To help keep children safe, the Victorian Government has introduced Child Safe Standards for clubs and other organizations that provide services to children. This policy has been developed to comply with these standards.

Children are defined in the standards as anyone under 18 years old.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to demonstrate the commitment of the Melton Bushwalkers Inc. (**the Club**) to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices the Club has developed to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse.

Commitment to Child Safety

All children who participate in our club activities have a right to feel and be safe. The Club aims to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun.

The Club has a zero tolerance to child abuse.

Application of this Policy

This policy was developed by the Club committee to apply to all club members and participants in club activities.

Child Abuse

Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect. Participants in club activities need to be aware that child abuse can occur whenever there is actual or potential harm to a child.

Children's Rights to Safety and Participation

The Club encourages children to participate in club activities but they must be accompanied by a responsible adult. They are welcome to express their views about their safety and other things that are important to them.

Valuing Diversity

Our club does not discriminate against individuals participating in our activities because of culture, race, religion, gender, age or disability.

However, children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and the walk leader may determine that a walk is unsuitable for the child or any individual.

Walk Leader

All club walks are lead by a walk leader who is responsible for the general safety of the participants. The leader must be informed of anyone intending to participate for the first time, especially children.

Responsible Adult

All children must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other mature responsible adult on club activities. This adult is primarily responsible for the child's safety.

Reporting a child safety concern or complaint

The Club generally aims to resolve issues that occur on club activities with discussion between the participants involved.

However, incidents involving children, especially inappropriate conduct, must be reported to the responsible adult accompanying the child, the walk leader and / or a member of the executive committee, as soon as possible. If appropriate, the walk leader or committee member must complete an Incident Report, to be initially reviewed by the executive committee to determine what further action is required.

Risk Management

Bushwalking by its very nature has a number of potential risks, which participants are reminded of when signing on for each club walk.

To minimise these risks for children, they should be supervised by the responsible adult accompanying them.

To reduce the risk of child abuse occurring, adults participating in club activities should avoid direct, unsupervised contact with children, including when travelling to or from club activities and staying in overnight accommodation.

Code of Conduct

All participants in club activities are expected to adhere to the practices outlined in this policy to protect children on club activities. This includes conducting themselves in a mature manner in the presence of children, such as refraining from using bad language, and treating everyone with respect.

Physical contact with children should be avoided, except when providing assistance to a child needing help.