

Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Child Safety Policy

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater (FoHH) is a Child Safe organisation with a commitment to children's best interests, and with no tolerance for child abuse. All children and young people under the age of 18 years who participate in our activities have a right to feel and to be safe. We encourage them to express their views and we listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them.

Physical or sexual abuse of a child, including grooming for sexual contact with a child under 16 years of age, is a crime and will be reported to police. All adults who form a reasonable belief that such a sexual offence has occurred have an obligation to report it to police.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to keep children and young people under the age of 18 years safe at FoHH activities.

CONTEXT

This policy complies with the Child Safe Standards. FoHH recognises that there are key risks to Child Safety, including:

- physical or sexual abuse;
- grooming (abuse of trust usually occurs where there is an ongoing relationship of trust);
- inappropriate child-to-child or adult-to-child physical or verbal contact and
- circulation of sexually explicit material.

WE WILL:

- Take all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- Model appropriate adult behaviour
- Listen to children and respond to them appropriately
- Welcome all children in the company of their carers
- Report any complaints, concerns or disclosures regarding Child Safety to the President of FoHH. Alternate contact is the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) 1300 78 29 78.
- Respect the privacy of children and only disclose information to people who need to know.

WE WILL NOT:

- Ignore or disregard any complaints, concerns or disclosures regarding child safety
- Allow “special” relationships between staff/volunteers and specific children to be developed, or allow favouritism with gifts or inappropriate attention.
- Allow the exchange of personal contact details such as phone numbers, social networking site or email addresses with children.
-

RISK MANAGEMENT

The FoHH will:

- accept children at its activities only if at all times they are in the company of, and under the direct supervision of, their carers (eg parents, guardians, teachers, scout leaders).
- where possible, communicate this requirement in writing to participating organisations and individuals prior to the event or activity, and state that the organisation must ensure that it has sufficient suitably qualified adults to provide adequate supervision and care, given the age, number and particular needs of the children.
- brief carers at the commencement of any FoHH activity which they are responsible for, that they must directly supervise the child(ren) at all times. Failure to do so may result in not being able to participate in FoHH activities.
- Ensure our Child Safety Policy is on our website
- Make sure children and adults know where to go for assistance
- Take all reasonable steps to ensure that no child is alone with only one person (other than their carer)
- Include an under-18 checkbox on our activity participation sheet
- Design activities so that there are clear sightlines, and obstruct any hidden places that could conceal inappropriate conduct
- Ensure awareness of our Child Safety Policy among our staff, members and volunteers
- Require staff or volunteers managing activities at which children are present to have current Working with Children Checks. (Adults who are participating in the event in the same way as a child do not need a current WWCC).

Adopted in principle by the Committee of Management of the FoHH on December 11, 2018

The Committee of Management resolved that compliance with the Child Safety Policy be made a condition of employment and that breaches of the Policy be a basis for a warning or disciplinary action.

The Committee of Management resolved that staff will be required to report at each Committee of Management meeting any difficulties which may have arisen since the previous meeting in relation to compliance with the Child Safety Policy.

Date for implementation: to be determined following process of consultation with members and volunteers.

Date for review: to be determined.

OTHER RELEVANT POLICIES

Work, Health and Safety