

# Child safe standards

## QCYC Statement of Commitment

### Background

Queenscliff Cruising Yacht Club (QCYC) offers membership to adult yachtsmen and yachtswomen and their families. Whilst QCYC does not provide sporting services specifically for children, it provides an environment where children are able to enjoy the Club's facilities under the supervision of their parents/carers.

This Statement of Commitment defines the Club's expectation towards the safety of children at QCYC. As the Club has no employed staff or volunteers in specific roles (other than the Executive roles of the General Committee) all members of the Club are encouraged to participate in the day to day running of the club. It is therefore the responsibility of every member of QCYC to ensure that they understand and adhere to this Statement.

### Commitment

**QCYC is committed to child safety. All members of QCYC have a responsibility to respect this commitment.**

We want children to be safe, happy and empowered. We support and respect all children, as well as our members.

We are committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of all children.

We have zero tolerance to child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and consistently.

We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety.

QCYC is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and to removing and reducing these risks.

We support and respect all children, as well as our members. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children of all abilities.

**In the event that a child is at immediate risk of abuse, any member aware should phone 000.**

### Our children

This policy is intended to empower children who are welcome as family members of our Club. We consider them when making decisions, especially about matters that directly affect them. We listen to their views and respect what they have to say.

We promote diversity and tolerance at QCYC, and people from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds are welcome. In particular we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- ensure that children of all abilities are safe and can participate equally.

## Our members

This statement guides members on how to behave with children in our organisation.

All members must agree to abide by the *QCYC Code of Conduct* in the presence of children. All members, as well as children and their families, are given the opportunity to contribute to the development of the *QCYC Code of Conduct*.

## Supervision

QCYC aims to ensure that all members (including children and their families) feel confident and comfortable in discussing any allegations of child abuse or child safety concerns.

Any inappropriate behaviour will be reported through appropriate channels, including the Department of Health and Human Services and Victoria Police, depending on the severity and urgency of the matter.

## Fair procedures for members

The safety and wellbeing of all members is our primary concern. The decisions made when assessing incidents, and when undertaking disciplinary action, will always be thorough, transparent, and evidence-based.

All allegations of abuse and safety concerns, including investigation updates, will be recorded and all records securely stored.

If an allegation of abuse or a safety concern is raised, we will provide updates to children and families on progress and any actions taken by the Club.

## Privacy

All personal information considered or recorded will respect the privacy of the individuals involved, unless there is a risk to personal safety. Safeguards and practices are in place to ensure any personal information is protected. Everyone is entitled to know how this information is recorded, what will be done with it, and who will have access.

## Legislative responsibilities

QCYC takes its legal responsibilities seriously, including:

- **Failure to disclose:** Reporting child sexual abuse is a community-wide responsibility. All adults in Victoria who have a reasonable belief that an adult has committed a sexual offence against a child under 16 have an obligation to report that information to the police.<sup>1</sup>
- **Failure to protect:** People of authority in our organisation will commit an offence if they know of a substantial risk of child sexual abuse and have the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but negligently fail to do so.<sup>2</sup>
- Any members who are **mandatory reporters** must comply with their duties.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A person will not commit this offence if they have a reasonable excuse for not disclosing the information, including a fear for their safety or where the information has already been disclosed.

Further information about the failure to disclose offence is available on the [Department of Justice and Regulation website](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/safer+communities/protecting+children+and+families/failure+to+disclose+offence) <www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/safer+communities/protecting+children+and+families/failure+to+disclose+offence>.

<sup>2</sup> Further information about the failure to protect offence is available on the [Department of Justice and Regulation website](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/safer+communities/protecting+children+and+families/failure+to+protect+offence) <www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/safer+communities/protecting+children+and+families/failure+to+protect+offence>.

<sup>3</sup> Mandatory reporters (doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers (including early childhood teachers), principals and police) must report to child protection if they believe on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection from physical injury or sexual abuse.

See the Department of Health and Human Services website for information about [how to make a report to child protection](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/reports-publications/guide-to-making-a-report-to-child-protection-or-child-first) <www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/reports-publications/guide-to-making-a-report-to-child-protection-or-child-first>.

## Risk management

In Victoria, organisations are required to protect children when a risk is identified (see information about failure to protect above). In addition to general health and safety risks, we will proactively manage risks of abuse to our children.

## Regular review

This statement will be reviewed every two years and after significant incidents, should they occur. We will ensure that families and children have the opportunity to contribute. Where possible we will do our best to work with local Aboriginal communities, culturally and/or linguistically diverse communities and people of all abilities.

## Allegations, concerns and complaints

QCYC takes all allegations seriously and will investigate thoroughly and quickly.

All members have a responsibility to report an allegation of abuse if there is reasonable belief that an incident took place (see information about failure to disclose above).

If an adult has a **reasonable belief** that an incident has occurred then they must report the incident.

Factors contributing to reasonable belief may be:

- a child states they or someone they know has been abused (noting that sometimes the child may in fact be referring to themselves)
- behaviour consistent with that of an abuse victim is observed<sup>4</sup>
- someone else has raised a suspicion of abuse but is unwilling to report it
- observing suspicious behaviour.

## Document information

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<sup>4</sup> For example behaviour, please see [An Overview of the Victorian child safe standards:](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/word_doc/0005/955598/Child-safe-standards_overview.doc)  
<www.dhs.vic.gov.au/\_data/assets/word\_doc/0005/955598/Child-safe-standards\_overview.doc>