

## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

### Statement

Sports Chaplaincy Australia ('SCA') is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people involved with, or who come into contact with, SCA, its employees, volunteers and Chaplains.

SCA has zero tolerance for any form of Child Abuse. All allegations of Child Abuse will be treated promptly, seriously, sensitively and confidentially.

Any SCA employee, volunteer or Chaplain who reasonably suspects that a child or young person (under the age of 18 years) has been, or is being abused by someone within, SCA, the sporting club, or by his/her parents/guardians, must report such suspicions to the police, or relevant government agency or authority in their State or Territory and to the SCA Integrity Committee. Any child abuse complaint concerning any SCA employee, volunteer or Chaplain must be referred to the SCA Integrity Committee.

SCA is committed to:

- the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people;
- the cultural safety of children and young people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds; and
- providing a safe environment for children and young people regardless of their sex, religion, or disability.

### Child Abuse

Under this Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, 'Child Abuse' includes, but is not limited to:

- physical abuse;
- sexual abuse;
- emotional abuse;
- neglect;
- family and domestic violence; and
- grooming.

### Grooming

Under this Statement of Commitment to Child Safety, 'grooming' refers to any conduct or activity whereby a relationship is built with a child, to prepare a child for sexual activity at a later time and includes, but is not limited to:

- Engaging in unauthorised contact with a child online for the purpose of developing a sexual relationship.
- Using a computer, mobile phone, camera or other device to exploit or harass a child.
- Unacceptable personal communication that explores sexual feelings or intimate personal feelings with a child.

- Sharing details with a child of one's own sexual experiences.
- Inappropriately extending a relationship with a child outside of their role on behalf of SCA.
- Giving a child special attention or isolating them from peers with the intention of making it easier to access the child for sexual activity.
- Offering a child gifts, food, cigarettes, money, attention or affection with the intention of making it easier to access the child for sexual activity.
- Making close physical contact, like inappropriate tickling and 'play' wrestling.

## **SCA employees, volunteers and Chaplains**

SCA's employees, volunteers and Chaplains must agree to comply with this Statement of Commitment to Child Safety and SCA's Professional Code of Conduct which specifies the standards of behaviour and conduct required when working with children.

### Employees and Volunteers

SCA requires all employees and volunteers who will be engaged in child-related work on behalf of SCA to:

- comply with the statutory obligations that apply to people working with children in their State or Territory;
- undertake a 'working with children check' to determine their suitability to work (in a paid or volunteer capacity) as specified under the relevant legislation in their State or Territory; and
- provide evidence to SCA as and when required of their 'working with children check' approval.

### Chaplains

SCA requires all Chaplains and all persons who have applied to become an SCA Chaplain, to:

- comply with the statutory obligations that apply to people working with children in their State or Territory;
- undertake a 'working with children check' to determine their suitability to work (in a paid or volunteer capacity) as specified under the relevant legislation in their State or Territory; and
- provide evidence to SCA as and when required of their 'working with children check' approval.

The above requirement applies regardless of whether or not the Chaplain, or applicant to become an SCA Chaplain, will be engaged in child-related work on behalf of SCA.

## **Training**

SCA is committed to ensuring that all its employees, volunteers and Chaplains:

- understand that child safety is everyone's responsibility;
- feel confident and comfortable to discuss any child abuse or child safety concerns;

- are monitored and informed regularly to ensure they understand SCA's commitment to child safety; and
- will undertake mandatory training on child safety.

### **Review**

This Statement will be reviewed every 2 years and following significant incidents (if they do occur).

Where possible we will do our best to listen to and empower children and young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, culturally and/or linguistically diverse communities and people with a disability in reviewing this Statement.

**Approved by the SCA Board on 22 April 2021.**