

STAWELL GOLF CLUB – CHILD SAFE POLICY

Purpose

This policy applies to members (including Directors and Committee Members), employees, volunteers and service providers who deliver services to (or actively engage with) children and young people to demonstrate the strong commitment of Stawell Golf Club to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse.

Our commitment to child safety is driven by the following principles:

1. **Child-Centred Approach:** We prioritise the best interests of children in all aspects of our operations. Their safety, welfare and rights are forefront of our decision-making processes. We support the equity and diversity of all children we work with and care for and have their needs understood.
2. **Prevention of Harm:** We are proactive in preventing harm to children by implementing comprehensive measures to identify and minimise potential risks. This includes the assessment of physical spaces, activities, and interactions to ensure they are safe and age appropriate.
3. **Empowering Children:** We recognise the importance of empowering children to voice their concerns, seek support and participate in discussions affecting their safety. We encourage open communication and create opportunities for children to express themselves in a safe and respectful manner.
4. **Staff Selection and Training:** We are committed to selecting and training staff and volunteers who share our commitment to child safety. Our recruitment processes include thorough background checks, reference checks, and mandatory training in child protection policies, procedures and practices.
5. **Clear Policies and Procedures:** We maintain clear and comprehensive policies and procedures that outline expected behaviour and conduct towards children. These policies are regularly reviewed and communicated to all staff, volunteers, contractors and stakeholders involved in our organisation.
6. **Reporting and Responding to Concerns:** We have established effective mechanism for reporting, responding to and managing allegations of child abuse or neglect. Our staff are trained to recognise signs of abuse and are obligated to report any suspicions or disclosure in accordance with legal requirements and organisational policies.
7. **Partnerships and Collaboration:** We actively collaborate with parents, guardians, families, communities, and relevant authorities to create a collective responsibility for child safety. We foster partnerships that promote a culture of vigilance, openness and ongoing improvement in safe guarding our children.
8. **Continuous Improvement:** We are committed to continuous improvement in our child safety practices. We regularly review and evaluate our policies, procedures and practices to ensure they remain effective, up to date and compliant with the latest Australian Standards.

This statement of Commitment to Child Safety reflects our dedication to creating a safe and supportive environment for children. We understand the critical importance of safeguarding their well-being and we strive to ensure that all children under our care can grow, learn and thrive in an environment free from harm.

Should you have any concerns or questions please raise them with the current Chairperson.