

AJ2019 CHILD PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

AJ2019 Child Protection - SCOPE

The Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy and Prescribed Procedures was approved in November 2016. The Policy sets the principles and the minimum standards for all Branches in critical child protection areas such as responsibilities, responding, screening, reporting and the handling of investigations and reports. The Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy nominates all adults in Scouting as 'volunteer reporters'. For AJ2019, all participating adults are required to conform with the South Australian Act and therefore will be 'mandated notifiers' for the Jamboree. The specific reporting requirements for 'Mandated Notifiers' are contained in this paper. The key child protection 'action requirements' for AJ2019 are:



- The focus must always be on the safety of the young person
- All adults participating in AJ2019 are considered to be 'Mandated Notifiers' under the SA Act and must report child abuse
- Respond positively and caringly to disclosure
- All reports and disclosures must be forwarded without delay
- Never be alone with a young person (unless in an emergency)
- Do not place yourself in a situation that could be misconstrued

Since the introduction of the national policy, and given the fact that State and Territory Child Protection legislation has yet to be harmonised, we acknowledge that Scout Branches will still be at various stages of achieving full conformance to the policy by January 2019. Therefore, whereas the principles and 'action requirements' above apply to the National Jamboree in 2019, this paper provides specific direction from the Host Branch which not only satisfies its own jurisdictional requirements, but also provides for a more simplified screening and reporting procedure specifically for the 2019 Jamboree.

These requirements have been approved by the NEC to achieve consistency and simplicity for the Jamboree, but do not circumvent the need for Branches to continue the journey of conforming with the national policy over time. Every Member attending AJ2019 must comply with the requirements contained in this paper.

AJ2019 General Child Protection Requirements

The ten principles for Childsafe organisations as described in the Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy directly apply to AJ2019. Importantly, the overriding principle that the child's safety is always our first duty should be the focus of every participating adult. Every adult is required to report suspected, observed and disclosed child abuse in accordance with this paper (please see "AJ2019 Child Protection Reporting Procedure" below).

AJ2019 Adult Screening Requirements

On specific advice from the SA Government's Department for Education and Child Development, AJ2019 has specifically agreed to invoke a clause within the Children's Protection Act 1993 (as amended). In accordance with our legislation, **the Jamboree will accept Adult Members from all Branches who have been subject to "a screening product to work with children or young people produced by another Australian jurisdiction"**.



Therefore, AJ2019 will accept all Adult Members who have been screened in accordance with the child protection requirements of their Branch. Membership **must** be **current** at the time of AJ2019 and clearance **must** be confirmed by the Branch of that Adult Member. In other words, if an adult in Scouting conforms with the screening requirements of the visiting Branch, they are considered 'cleared' to work at AJ2019

for child protection purposes. This means that adult registrations will be accepted without the requirement for both the WWCC and the NPC per the national policy (if that State's current legislation does not require both checks).

AJ2019 Child Protection Reporting Procedure

Young participants have already been advised that they can raise child protection issues with Adults at the Jamboree, and that any concerns will be taken seriously and treated appropriately (this message is to be repeated and reinforced throughout the Jamboree). We have also advised participating youth members that if any of their communicated safety concerns have not been adequately addressed these can be escalated to another adult (you must not discourage this). This additional avenue is also to be reinforced in all safety briefings.

Legal Requirement. Every participating adult is required to make a report if he/she reasonably suspects, sees, or receives a disclosure from a survivor for all cases of child abuse in South Australia as if the adult is a 'Mandated Notifier' under the Children's Protection Act 1993. This means you have a legal responsibility to report any concerns that you may have regarding child abuse directly to the Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) which is a unit of the Department for Child Protection (DCP) in South Australia.

South Australia Police (SAPOL) will be on-site at Tailem Bend for AJ2019, SAPOL is to be advised in addition to CARL as a priority. Additionally, you are required to make the report to the Operations/Duty Officer at the **AJ2019 Incident Management Centre (IMC)** to ensure the ongoing safety of the young person and for the IMC to advise other important stakeholders. The report to CARL is a Legislative requirement and must take priority over all other notifications. **Reporting Process and Actions.** If you form a suspicion that child abuse has or is likely to occur, or you see child abuse, or it is disclosed to you, **YOU MUST REPORT** it to CARL as a priority. In reporting to CARL, it is important that you ascertain whether DCP is likely to take any immediate action.

SAPOL officers are on-site at Tailem Bend and are to be advised of the report as soon as possible so that the police can determine the level of investigation required.

When you or the IMC Duty Officer reports to SAPOL, it is important that you ascertain whether SAPOL is likely to take any immediate action and also to seek advice regarding management of the alleged perpetrator, if she or she is on-site.

If you make such a report directly, you are to also advise the IMC of the report being made to CARL or SAPOL. If you are in doubt, you are to consult with the IMC for advice immediately. All reports received are to be acted upon and the Operations/Duty Officer at the IMC will take immediate steps to:



- Ensure the young person is safe from harm or further harm (this may include talking with the child and understanding his/her wishes in the short term)
- In conjunction with the reporter, ensure the incident is reported to the South Australian Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) 131478 (if not already reported) and to the South Australian Police (SAPOL) representatives at AJ2019 (number TBA)
- Consult with the Police in order to take decisions regarding the alleged perpetrator and the welfare of the young person(s)
- Advise the Jamboree Chief Director; Camp Chief and AJ 2019 Media Liaison
- Advise the Host Branch
- Advise the visiting Branch Contingent Leader
- Advise Parents and make offers of assistance – however, in circumstances where the alleged perpetrator is a parent, it is important that the parent(s) is/are not advised. Advice must be sought from CARL, SAPOL and the IMC Duty Officer in these circumstances
- Provide follow-up counselling and administrative assistance

If a young person chooses to raise a child protection issue with you, or if you observe something that causes you to be concerned that a young person is being abused or is likely to be abused, it is your role to:

- Stay calm and listen carefully to their concerns and be very supportive.
- Re-assure the young person that you understand their concerns and that it is not their fault
- Make sure you allow the child to use his or her own words
- Reassure the child that they have done the right thing by telling you
- Make a report to CARL and to SAPOL if you conclude that child abuse has, is or is likely to occur
- Let the child know exactly what will be happening next (even if you are not sure yourself) especially reinforce that he/she/they are now safe
- Only ask open-ended questions
- Raise the concern immediately to the AJ2019 IMC
- Manage the confidentiality of the person who has trusted you with this information by only sharing the information with the people necessary to support the young person

- In conjunction with the IMC, provide the young person with a safe and private location (separate from the person in respect of whom they have raised their concerns) until the young person feels comfortable to resume their Jamboree experience, or otherwise
- Immediately make a record of the disclosure or interview as soon as you have the opportunity
- If you are not certain whether the issue raised is a 'child protection' issue you should immediately report to the IMC and follow the advice received
- Be aware that a child protection issue can also arise between youth members (and not just between an adult and a child), these are to be treated in the same manner as above



DO NOT

- Express shock, anger, disgust or distress in front of the young person.
- Discuss specific details of the matter over the radio network or other 'open' devices - if required, ask for the appropriate member of the AJ2019 IMC to come to your location.
- Try to investigate or solve the issue - the AJ2019 IMC will take the appropriate measures when they arrive and consult with the young person.
- Discuss the matter with others.
- Tell the young person that you can keep it confidential between you and them.
- Dissuade any young person from making a disclosure or reporting to the next level.
- Push the child into giving details.
- Speak with the alleged perpetrator regarding the disclosure or the concern – except in your efforts to make the child safe.
- Contact the parents yourself – especially if the parent is the alleged perpetrator - this communication will be managed by the AJ2019 IMC and SAPOL.

REMEMBER

- Your first duty is to ensure the young person is safe.
- Comfort and stay with him/her if necessary.
- Report the matter to CARL and SAPOL and the IMC.
- If you are unsure of what to do – contact the AJ2019 IMC.

The annexure to this paper shows the AJ2019 child protection reporting chain. The sequence of reporting shown is to be strictly adhered to.

AJ2019 Support

AJ2019 will establish internal and external support and/or counselling services for any persons in need (the young person involved, adult disclosed to, family etc). This support will also be offered and managed through the IMC.