

# COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY AND PROTECTION

Child protection is about keeping children safe from abuse and harm, and protecting them from people who are unsuitable to work or have contact with children under the age of 18 years.

State Sport Centres Trust (SSCT) has a legal and moral responsibility to ensure an environment where children can participate and be safe from any abuse, neglect, or mistreatment and where staff and visitors are supported in raising child safety concerns. SSCT will not tolerate actions by staff or the public which are not conducive to providing this environment. We are guided by and comply with relevant legislation, as well as our own suite of child protection systems to ensure this obligation is met.

All visitors and hirers of SSCT venues shall comply with or exceed the SSCT Child Protection Policy and commitment.

Conditions of entry/participation include agreeing to commit to ensuring young people are safe at all times. SSCT reserves the right to exclude participants or members of the public whose conduct risks the safety of children and young people.

## Identification

Indicators of child abuse can include but are not limited to physical bruising or injury, unusual behaviour, high levels of distrust, unexplained absence, and high level of anxiety or reference to someone else being abused. People working with children need to consider the context in which the indicators are observed and raise all concerns early to SSCT staff.

## Appropriate behaviour with children

Physical contact with children is appropriate if it:

- is used to assist in skill development
- is required for the child's safety
- occurs in an open environment
- is required within the course of work duties, such as changing a nappy

Physical contact with children is inappropriate if it:

- includes touching any part of the body that may cause distress or embarrassment
- frightens, distresses or embarrasses a child
- occurs in a private place

## Cultural Diversity and Children with a Disability

Cultural, linguistic and disability needs will be met as required to ensure participation in any activity is not compromised. Staff shall ensure that cultural and linguistic needs are addressed in any communication of a message or other information and in the interactions with children.

## Reporting

If a staff member suspects or receives a report that a child is the subject of abuse or negative treatment they are obliged to report it through the appropriate channels so it can be escalated through Child Protection authorities. All complaints raised, whether by staff or against staff, will be treated with strict privacy and confidentiality.

## What do we do?

SSCT offers a family environment that provides programs and services designed to:

- ensure individuals enjoy their experience
- cater for individuals at their own ability levels
- assist participants to develop and achieve optimal levels or performance
- increase accessibility for multi-cultural, including Aboriginal, and multi-linguistic participation
- ensure the safety of every participant

All SSCT children's services have robust prevention, training, supervision and reporting activities to ensure a child's safety.

## What can you do?

It is important that if you see something you say something – if you receive a report or believe that you have observed any indicators of child abuse at our venue, please report it immediately to the closet staff member so they can raise all concerns through the appropriate reporting lines.

## For more information

If you would like to know more about what we do for one of our programs, please look up the program page on our website or speak to one of our friendly customer service members on 9926 1555.

You can find out more information on Victorian Government guidelines and legislation regarding child safety on the following website: [www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/policies-guidelines-and-legislation/child-safe-standards-resources](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/about-the-department/documents-and-resources/policies-guidelines-and-legislation/child-safe-standards-resources)