



Sutherland Bushwalkers Club

Child Protection Policy and Procedure

Sutherland Bushwalking Club encourages the participation of children in Club activities with the consent of the **Activity Organiser** and a completed **Children's Activity Risk Waiver form** by the Adult Responsible for the Child (the Adult).

Our Club has a legal obligation to create a safe environment for children participating in an activity. A child is a person under the age of 18 years.

CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURE

- 1) It should be made clear to all members that children's attendance on activities is to be considered a privilege and not a right.
- 2) Children can attend activities **ONLY if the Activity Organiser has been contacted BEFORE the activity and permission requested and granted.**
- 3) No Activity Organiser is required to accept a child on an activity if they are not comfortable and no reason needs to be given.
- 4) If someone turns up to an activity with children, without prior permission from the Activity Organiser, they **WILL NOT** be allowed to participate.
- 5) The person bringing the children (the Adult) must complete and sign the **Children's Activity Risk Waiver** and present it to the Activity Organiser **prior** to the commencement of the activity.
- 6) The signed Children's Activity Risk Waiver must be attached to the Trip Report and returned to the Club as soon as possible. All forms connected with the participation of children must be kept until the child's 21st birthday and cannot be disposed of prior to this date.
- 7) It is the Adult's responsibility to ensure that the child is capable of completing the activity.
- 8) Before the activity, other participating members must be informed of the following :-
 - a. Children are welcome on the activity but the child/children must be supervised by the Adult at all times.
 - b. No other participant may offer or accept responsibility for supervising the child other than the Adult who brought them.
 - c. The Adult bringing the child is expected to maintain an appropriate standard of behaviour from the child and not allow them to interfere with the enjoyment of the activity by other participants. The child must accept any directions from the activity organiser during the activity.
 - d. Physical contact with the child by other participants should be avoided except if it is necessary to restrain or protect them in the event of possible harm or to provide First Aid.
 - e. If either the Child or the Adult are injured and require treatment, they must stay together. If this is not possible, the Adult, or a representative of the Emergency Service must appoint an alternative Adult to be responsible for the child.

- f. If any member has any concerns or questions about child abuse issues, they should speak to the Club's designated Child Protection Officers (President or Vice President).

Bushwalking Australia recommends that Child Protection Officers attend free seminars organised by the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Our Club will respond to concerns in accordance with the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998.

Concerns can also be reported by phone to the Dept of Community Services on the Child Protection Help Line contact 132 111. The line is available 24hours a day, 7 days a week. If a child is in immediate danger contact NSW Police 000

The Child Protection Policy and Procedure will be reviewed and updated with any legislative changes that have significant impact on the manner in which child protection issues are to be dealt with.