Scouts Australia CHILD PROTECTION SUMMARY

PRINCIPLE ONE - ALL ADULTS IN SCOUTING are to report Child Abuse.

All Adults in Scouting are to immediately report any incident concerning Child Abuse to the appropriate authority as required by the legislation in the State/Territory in which the incident occurred and in accordance with the Branch Child Protection Framework notwithstanding the wishes of the Child or any other person

PRINCIPLE TWO – Respond positively and quickly to the person disclosing abuse and report on matters observed by you to the appropriate authority in accordance with the Branch Child Protection Framework

PRINCIPLE THREE - All Child Protection Reports will be attended to without delay and treated strictly in accordance with the Branch Child Protection Framework

PRINCIPLE FOUR – Reports and disclosures should not be internally investigated at the receiving point, or, between the receiving point and the Branch. All Reports and disclosures should be forwarded as soon as possible to the Branch and/or to the authority legislated in each State or Territory.

Scope. The Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy provides clear direction for all Scout Branches and mandates the child protection standard for all members. State Branches are to conform with all the requirements of their legislative jurisdictions and are to develop their own detailed Child Protection Frameworks which adopt this Policy and its prescribed procedures. Where State-based legislation mandates prescribed actions or imposes a higher level of responsibility that legislation is to apply.

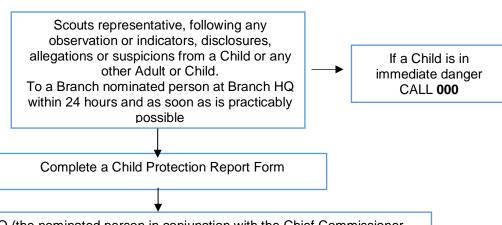
Policy Statement. The Scout Association is committed to an environment of **ZERO TOLERANCE** toward bullying, neglect and emotional, physical, psychological or sexual abuse of any kind. When an incident does occur, our absolute priority is to ensure the immediate safety and welfare of the Child.

Report. Report. All Adults must report any conduct directly seen or suspected that does not comply with this Policy and/or the Scouts Australia Code of Conduct. Without fail, Adults must report immediately any disclosure, allegation or suspicion of abuse of Children in accordance with this Policy and in the manner specifically required by State/Territory legislation where the incident occurred and the relevant Branch Child Protection Frameworks. Children are to be encouraged to report any conduct that does not comply with this Policy and are to be regularly reminded/informed through the Scout program of their rights to feel safe and what action they can take if they do not feel safe. Every and all occurrences of alleged sexual abuse must be reported to the authorities regardless of whether the State or Territory has mandatory reporting requirements.

The Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy provides very **specific Policy and Procedural standards** that MUST be adhered to by all Branches and participants in the following important areas:

- Establishing a Child Safe Environment (the result of full compliance with this Policy and procedures)
- Screening for Membership (includes strict requirements for supervision)
- Mandated Reporting (flow chart attached)
- Responding to Disclosure (child focussed)
- Suspension and Termination (automatic)
- Training and Communication (mandatory)
- Sharing of Information (open and complete cooperation with child protection authorities)
- Survivor/Victim Focus (the primacy of our highest duty of care to our youth)
- Youth representation and involvement (encouraging all youth members to communicate openly)

It is the responsibility of all members to adopt and comply with the standards and the prescribed procedures detailed in the Scouts Australia Child Protection Policy.



Branch HQ (the nominated person in conjunction with the Chief Commissioner, Branch Chairman and Branch Executive Officer) conducts its own internal checks (checking the elements of the report only – scout membership etc)

BRANCHES ARE NOT TO CONDUCT THEIR OWN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIONS (unless required to do so by legislation)

There are a range of outcomes that may come from the initial assessment:

Report made to State Child Protection Authority and/or Police

Ongoing monitoring or performance review

Further communication, education and/or training

Discontinuation or Suspension of Membership of alleged perpetrator

Referral to external support services

Report filed for future reference

Where an incident does not meet the statutory Child Protection or state police requirements to act, the Branch will make a determination in the matter at its unfettered discretion and always in the interests of protecting Children

Where appropriate, AND ONLY AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE CHILD PROTECTION AUTHORITIES AND INVESTIGATING BODY feedback will be given to those directly involved, including Children, parents/guardians and Scouts Representatives.

Individuals involved should be referred to external support services for medical treatment or counselling, if needed. If the Branch decides NOT to make its own report to the Authorities, that decision is to be communicated with the initial reporter.

Report and Membership information may be shared with any State Authority and with Scouts Australia National Office at Branch discretion.