

TOC H AUSTRALIA SOUTHERN REGION

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Date of Issue: December 2009

Policy

As Toc H members, we believe that children and young people have the right to be emotionally and physically safe at all times. We are committed to supporting the rights and well being of children within our programs, and supporting our leaders to build and maintain a secure environment for all program participants. In all of our programs, we are committed to taking all reasonable steps to ensure that children are safe from abuse of any nature.

We acknowledge that many of the children involved in our programs have been subjected to abuse in their lives. Toc H will ensure that all leaders have an understanding of the impact of abuse and the effect on behaviour and development, and understand their legal obligations.

To support this policy Toc H will:-

- Develop a procedure for leader recruitment for working with children
- Ensure all staff and volunteers are trained
- Train leaders to report alleged abuse as per the Children's Protection Act 1993
- Develop and implement a Risk Management Policy

The Law

Under Section 11(1) & (2) of the Children's Protection Act 1993, Toc H Leaders are obliged to notify Families SA if they suspects on reasonable grounds that a child/young person has been or is being abused or neglected and the suspicion is formed in the course of the person's work (whether paid or voluntary) or in carrying out official duties.

i.e. "any person who is an employee of, or volunteer in a government department, agency or a local government or non government agency or instrumentality that provides health, welfare, education, childcare or residential services wholly or partly for children/young people, and is engaged in the actual delivery of those services to children/young people."