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Child Safety Commitment - Shelly Beach Surf Club

At Shelly Beach Surf Club (SBSC), the safety, well-being, and protection of children and young people (CYP) is our highest priority. We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where all CYPs can thrive, learn, and enjoy the benefits of Surf Life Saving.

Our Commitment

As an affiliated club of Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA), we fully endorse and adhere to the SLSA Child Safe Commitment Statement and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. These principles guide our policies and practices to ensure the safety of all CYP in our care.

SBSC is committed to:

1. Child-Centric Practices

- a. Always prioritising the best interests of CYP in all our decisions and actions.
- b. Providing opportunities for CYP to express their views, feel heard, and actively participate in their surf lifesaving journey.

2. Promoting Equality, Respect, and Diversity

- a. Actively accommodating to the diverse needs of CYP, particularly those with additional vulnerabilities.
- b. Providing all CYP with access to information, support, and reporting processes.
- c. Empowering CYP by encouraging them to express their opinions and voice their concerns about decisions that affect them.
- d. Creating a fun and positive environment for CYP to participate in. Paying special attention to the needs of First Nation and Torres Strait Islander CYP, CYP with disabilities, CYP who identify as LGBTQIA+, and CYP from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

3. Safe Environments

- a. Ensuring our club facilities, programs, and activities are safe, inclusive, and free from harm or discrimination.
- b. Taking proactive steps to identify and manage risks that may compromise the safety of CYP

4. Screening, Training, and Supervision

- a. Requesting all volunteers, staff, and members working with CYP undergo Working With Children Checks (WWCC) and regular training in child protection and safeguarding.
- b. Supporting Age Managers and coaches with resources and training to deliver safe, enjoyable, and develop mentally appropriate activities.

5. Zero Tolerance for Abuse

- a. Maintaining a zero-tolerance approach to child abuse, bullying, harassment, and exploitation. Acting swiftly on any concerns, incidents, or allegations to ensure CYP safety and wellbeing.

6. Clear Policies and Procedures

- a. Following the SLSA Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and ensuring all staff and members understand and uphold their responsibilities.
- b. Providing accessible reporting channels for any concerns about child safety, with confidentiality and support for those involved.

7. Continuous Improvement

- a. Regularly reviewing our policies, practices, and environments to ensure we remain aligned with best practices in child safety.
- b. Engaging with families and the broader community to strengthen our child safety approach.

Child Safe Reporting

The safety of CYP relies on community members being proactive in reporting their concerns.

SBSC members are encouraged to speak up if they notice any inappropriate behaviour.

To report your concerns, please contact either of the following:

- **Club's Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)** at memberprotection@shellybeachsurfclub.com.au
or
- **Club's Child Protection Coordinator** at childprotection@shellybeachsurfclub.com.au
or
- **Submit a report** through our online reporting portal: <https://complaints.sls.com.au>
 - **Using the portal:**
 - Visit the online reporting portal and click on 'Make a Child Safe Report.'
 - Follow the prompts, with the option to remain anonymous. Click 'Submit' when you are finished.
 - Your report will be sent to Surf Life Saving Australia's Legal Counsel and SLSNSW for investigation.

All reports will be treated confidentially and with the utmost respect for everyone involved.

The SBSC Management Committee is committed to keeping CYP safe from abuse and neglect.

Regards,

Shelly Beach Surf Life Saving Club - Executive.