

KEY ACTION AREA 2.3:

Where relevant to the setting or context, children may be offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs and relevant related information in an age-appropriate way.

OVERVIEW

It is important for your SSA to create and maintain a safe environment for children and young people and do everything that is reasonable to keep children and young people safe. There are many aspects of this outlined within the [True Sport Child Safeguarding resources](#), which outline the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

It is important to remember the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations were designed to encourage consistency across all organisations where children and young people are involved and certain principles may be more or less relevant to different organisations. Therefore, some of the key action areas, such as this one (2.3), may seem confusing and/or overwhelming for sport organisations.

However it is important to remember that you are **not required to become an expert** in specialised child safeguarding areas, such as sexual abuse prevention programs. However, it is hoped that your SSA volunteers and staff will seek guidance and advice, and refer families to external agencies or organisations, if they feel a child or young person requires additional support or guidance.

For example, if a volunteer or staff member at your SSA is concerned a child or young person may require access to sexual abuse prevention programs (for example a protective behaviours education program), they need to seek advice about where to refer a child or young person, and how they do this (noting the considerations and complexities around this in relation to referring a child or young person onto an agency or organisations).

Below, are steps your SSA may consider:

- If your SSA is concerned that an individual, child or young person may require access to sexual abuse prevention programs, seek advice about relevant suggestions of relevant resources or agencies to share or link with the child or young person's family.

- If your SSA staff or volunteers are concerned that a group of children and young people require access to a sexual abuse prevention program (for example, following a child safety incident or disclosure at your SSA), and with the support of parents and carers, organise an education session.
- It is important your SSA develops child-friendly versions of its rules and codes of conduct and these are shared with children and young people, so everyone is clear about what is appropriate and what is not. In addition, child-friendly information about complaint processes needs to be developed and shared. [Online safety](#) information also needs to be shared with children and young people.



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 2.3	<p>If a person within the SSA is concerned that a child or young person may require access to sexual abuse prevention programs (eg protective behaviours education), the SSA proactively refers the child or young person onto a relevant agency to be supported.</p>
	<p>Child-friendly versions of SSA rules and codes of conduct are shared widely and promoted with all staff, volunteers and children and young people.</p>
	<p>Child-friendly information about complaint processes is developed and shared.</p>
	<p>Online safety information is shared with children and young people.</p>

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If you need support:

- > [Mental health community links](#)
- > [Reporting flowchart](#)

