

## KEY ACTION AREA 8.3:

Risk management plans consider risks posed by SSA settings, activities and the physical environment.

### OVERVIEW

It is important for risk management plans to consider risks posed by your SSA settings, activities and the physical environment.

Strategies need to be adapted for your different SSA settings and the particular needs of children and young people involved in your SSA ([refer to Fact Sheet 1.5](#)). It is essential that visibility by staff and volunteers of children and young people is considered in the planning of activities. If visibility of children and young people is poor during activities, it is essential to have other practices in place or strengthened to enable children and young people to be safe.

It is important that access to children and young people is actively monitored within all of your SSA activities. For example, your SSA will have different risk management strategies in place if you are running a training session for children and young people in a private sports venue which has lockable entrances and exits, as opposed to holding a training session in a public venue, where the general public has full access to the space.

The intention of the [National Principles](#) is to create safer environments for children and young people by considering risks associated with activities and taking action to mitigate those risks. The [National Principles](#) are not designed to stop activities that have risk, rather they can help people be aware of risks and take action to mitigate them where possible. For example, although there is more risk that a stranger will seek to engage a child or young person in a public space (whether this be inside or outside) there is still risk involved while training in a private space. Mitigation strategies are important in all settings.

Furthermore, activities that occur away from your SSA usual environments (such as interstate travel or national competitions) need to be planned to take into account the physical environment. It is important to have clear procedures and guidelines for your SSA staff and volunteers to assist in managing activities such as toilet breaks, changing clothes and personal care and in environments such as dorm rooms. Not only is this important for the safety of children and young people, it also enables your SSA staff and volunteers to avoid situations where there may be a perception of inappropriate behaviour, even if that is not the case.



<b>EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 8.3</b>	Visibility of children and young people has been considered and activities planned accordingly, or other practices strengthened.
	Access to children and young people in the SSA's environments is actively monitored.
	Procedures and guidelines are in place for managing toilet breaks, changing clothes and personal care.

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