



NATIONAL PRINCIPLE 9

Implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations is regularly reviewed and improved





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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Child Safeguarding

Child Safeguarding relates to the actions taken by organisations to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in it's care, to protect them from harm.

Child Safety Code of Conduct

A document that provides guidelines for everyone involved in organisations (including staff and volunteers and children and young people) to understand their expected behavioural standards and responsibilities.

Children and young people

Those involved in your SSA who are under the age of 18 or fit into a youth category.

National Principles

The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (National Principles) reflect the ten child safe standards (standards) recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual

Abuse and were endorsed by all Commonwealth, state and territory governments. The National Principles are the vehicle for giving effect to recommendations relating to the standards. The National Principles aim to provide a nationally consistent approach to creating organisational cultures that foster safety and wellbeing.

SSA

State Sport Association.

Staff and volunteers

All people undertaking paid or unpaid work within your SSA.

True Sport

True Sport provides a framework for a long-term sustainable approach to safeguarding, support and equip the sports industry from now and into the future. Its all about creating the environment for sport in WA that allows the industry to thrive and prosper for generations to come.



KEY ACTION AREA 9.1:

SSA regularly reviews, evaluates and improves child safe practices.

OVERVIEW

Your SSA needs to regularly review, evaluate and improve its child safe practices as a process of continuous improvement.

It is vital that your SSA reviews and checks its child safety and wellbeing policies and procedures are being informed by a range of data sources. If the content in these policies and procedures is not relevant, or as relevant as it can be, it will not be providing guidance on the most appropriate actions within your SSA to create safe environments for children and young people.

It is also important that your SSA has regular discussions about child safe practices as part of its meetings, ensuring that this is informed by general feedback and input sourced from your staff, volunteers, members, children and young people, carers and parents.

Your SSA needs to be attentive, flexible and responsive to new challenges, such as changes in the circumstances of children and young people involved in your SSA and to the diverse needs of children and young people and their families. It is essential that your SSA does not ignore changing situations or challenges just because they are not documented in policies or procedures.

Although your policies and procedures need to guide your action, it is vital, particularly when talking about the safety of children and young people, that your SSA continues to evolve and improve implementation as part of continuous learning. If you have children and young people who are at risk, your SSA needs to improve its child safe practices based on evidence, being mindful of individual characteristics, cultural backgrounds and abilities. **This is not something your SSA staff and volunteers need to be experts in,** however it is important they are informed about where they can go externally to seek this guidance or information to assist.



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 9.1	<p>The SSA reviews and checks on implementation of child safety and wellbeing policies and procedures, drawing on a range of information/data sources.</p>
	<p>There is regular proactive discussion about child safe practices as part of SSA member meetings, informed by general feedback and input from staff, volunteers, members, children and young people, carers and parents.</p>
	<p>The SSA is attentive, flexible and responsive to new challenges, such as changes to the circumstances of children and young people in the SSA or to the diverse needs of children and young people and their families.</p>
	<p>If providing opportunities for children and young people with diverse needs, the SSA reviews and improves (as appropriate) its child safe practices based on evidence, being mindful of individual characteristics, cultural backgrounds and abilities.</p>

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KEY ACTION AREA 9.2:

Complaints, concerns and safety incidents are analysed to identify causes and systemic failures, so as to inform continuous improvement.

OVERVIEW

It is important for your SSA to learn from any child safeguarding complaints, concerns and incidents, identifying causes and systemic failures to inform continuous improvement.

To achieve this, your SSA should conduct a thorough review at the earliest opportunity following a complaint or incident to identify the cause of the complaint, any systemic issues or failures and areas for improvement or changes required. This information should then be used to make changes to your policies, procedures (and ultimately implementation of these as mentioned in [Fact Sheet 9.1](#)), and operational practices as needed.

It is also valuable for your SSA to foster open and positive relationships with other organisations to share learnings, experiences and practices. One mechanism to achieve this is through the [True Sport Child Safeguarding Champions network](#), where your SSA has an opportunity to meet with other SSAs to share examples of good practice, as well as learnings.

If there is a situation where an independent review of complaint handling is required, it is important to seek guidance about how to go about this.



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 9.2	<p>A thorough review is undertaken at the earliest opportunity following a child safeguarding complaint or incident to understand how and why it occurred, identify any contributing systemic issues or failures, and any improvements or changes required.</p>
	<p>The SSA fosters open and positive relationships with other organisations to share learnings, experiences and practices.</p>
	<p>An external body conducts an independent review of complaint handling as required.</p>

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KEY ACTION AREA 9.3:

The SSA reports on the findings of relevant reviews to staff and volunteers, community and families, and children and young people.

OVERVIEW

It is important for your SSA to report on the findings of relevant reviews to its staff and volunteers, community, families, children and young people. There are a range of reasons for this, including the benefit of demonstrating genuine commitment to continuously improving child safe practices and environments to everyone within the SSA ([see National Principle 2](#) and [3 resources](#)).

Your SSA needs to regularly review its implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, with SSA leaders informed of the review findings, recommendations and completed actions. It is also essential for your staff, volunteers, families, community, children and young people to be aware of the relevant information following reviews.

SSA policies and procedures should be dated and version controlled, and new versions of these policies and procedures (which will be based on reviews and feedback) communicated to your staff, volunteers, parents, carers, children and young people. These policies and procedures need to be accompanied by the relevant information, resources and/or training as required. If your SSA simply shares its policies and procedures – without information explaining how they can be implemented – staff and volunteers are less likely to have the capacity to meaningfully implement them. This will impact the SSA's ability to help create a safe environment for children and young people.



EXAMPLE SSA ACTIONS TO WORK TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING KEY ACTION AREA 9.3	<p>The SSA regularly reports on the findings, recommendations and completed actions of relevant reviews to leaders in the SSA, and communicates this to staff, volunteers, families, community and children and young people.</p>
	<p>Policies and procedures are dated, and new versions/changes are brought to the attention of staff, volunteers, parents, carers, children and young people, and supported by relevant information and/or training as required.</p>

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