

CHILD SAFETY POLICY

POLICY FOR MEMBERS WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Members of the Isolated Children's Parents' Association Western Australia (ICPA WA) are required to abide by this policy during Association events and proceedings which include children and young people.

All people organising any event in the name of ICPA WA will:

1. Be responsible for the safety of children in all activities they organise involving children.
2. Maintain a duty of care towards others involved in these programs and activities.
3. Establish and maintain a child-safe environment in the course of their work.
4. Be fair, considerate and honest with others.
5. Treat children and young people with respect and value their ideas and opinions.
6. Act as positive role models in their conduct with children and young people.
7. Be professional in their actions.
8. Maintain strict impartiality.
9. Respect the privacy of children, their families and teachers/carers, and only disclose information to people who have a need to know.
10. Maintain a child-safe environment for children and young people.
11. Operate within the policies and guidelines of ICPA WA; and
12. Contact the police if a child is at immediate risk of abuse.

No person shall:

1. Shame, humiliate, oppress, belittle or degrade children or young people.
2. Unlawfully discriminate against any child.
3. Engage in any activity with a child or young person that is likely to harm them physically or emotionally.
4. Initiate unnecessary physical contact with a child or young person or do things of a personal nature for them that they can do for themselves.
5. Be alone with a child or young person unnecessarily and for more than a very short time.
6. Develop a 'special' relationship with a specific child or young person for their own needs.
7. Show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention.
8. Arrange contact, including online contact, with children or young people outside of the organisation's programs and activities.
9. Photograph or video a child or young person without the consent of the child and his/her parents or guardians.
10. Work with children or young people while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs.
11. Engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children.

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12. Use inappropriate language in the presence of children; or
13. Do anything in contravention of the organisation's policies and procedures

Reporting:

Should a member have any reason to suspect a child involved in an ICPA WA event is experiencing harm, or is at risk of experiencing harm or being neglected, they should contact;

Department of Communities Child Protection and Family Support and speak to someone about their concerns:

Metropolitan

During business hours, contact the Central Intake Team on 1800 273 899.

Outside business hours contact the Crisis Care Unit on 9223 1111.

You can also email the Central Intake Team on CPDUTY@communities.wa.gov.au

Country

During business hours contact the Communities local district office closest to where the child lives www.childprotection.wa.gov.au.

Outside business hours contact Crisis Care on (08) 9223 1111 or country free call 1800 199 008

An officer will discuss your concerns and ask about:

- The child's details.
- Why you believe the child has been abused or neglected or is at risk.
- The child's immediate risk.
- The person suspected of causing the harm.
- Your ongoing contact with the child.

The Department will make decisions about the kind of action that needs to be taken.

It is important for you to call to report your concerns and to provide as much detail as possible. Your details will be kept confidential and your identity strictly protected. Members would also be encouraged to report any child safety incidents or concerns to the State President either by phone or WAPresident@icpa.com.au as soon as possible. Again, identifying information can remain confidential.

What happens if you breach this Policy?

If you breach this Child safety Policy, you will face disciplinary action which may include the cessation of membership with the organisation and, if necessary, reporting to the appropriate authority.