

## **Commitment to Safeguarding Children and Young People**

### **Annual Statement for Special Olympics Australia**

Special Olympics Australia:

- ☒ is committed to the safety and wellbeing of every child and young person who takes part in our activities, programs, events or services
- ☒ is committed to providing children and young people with a positive and nurturing experience
- ☒ will support families and the community to promote the healthy development and wellbeing of all children
- ☒ will strive to ensure that children and young people are protected from abuse and harm
- ☒ will work to create an environment in which children and young people are safe and feel safe at all times
- ☒ will listen to children and young people and address any concerns that they raise with us
- ☒ will support our members and the community to report any suspicion, or concern in relation to the mistreatment, or potential mistreatment, of a child or young person
- ☒ will challenge inappropriate behaviour of any of its members or members of the community
- ☒ will ensure all children and young people, no matter what cultural ethnicity, language, religion or disability, shall be able to participate in surf lifesaving in a fun and safe environment
- ☒ will appoint a Member Protection Information Officer, or equivalent, and ensure this person is trained on the obligations and responsibilities with respect to safeguarding children and young people
- ☒ will strive to ensure that persons in a position of authority do not harm, abuse or exploit children or young people who are involved within our club
- ☒ may not ask for consent to disclose information to police or an external child protection agency in the event we have concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person.

As part of our commitment to safeguarding children and young people, our club:

- ☒ is committed to supporting parents and carers to protect their children and young people
- ☒ will offer assistance that builds on a family's strengths and make up, is sensitive to their culture and religious beliefs and empowers them to meet the changing needs of their children and young people
- ☒ is committed to communicating honestly and opening with parents and carers about the wellbeing and safety of their children and young people
- ☒ will promote and distribute information to parents and carers about our safeguarding commitment to children and young people as part of an introduction to our club
- ☒ endeavours to be transparent in our decision-making, with parents and carers, as long as doing so does not compromise the safety of a child/young person or breach the Special Olympics Australia [Privacy Policy](#).

**This commitment was endorsed and approved by Special Olympics Australia:**



**Pierre Comis**  
Chief Executive Officer