

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 and seek to foster the development of improved physical literacy.
- ☒ 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 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 Special Olympics programs 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 clubs and programs
- ☒ 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 clubs:

- ☒ are 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, are sensitive to their culture and religious beliefs, and empower them to meet the changing needs of their children and young people
- ☒ are committed to communicating honestly and openly 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 clubs
- ☒ endeavour to exercise transparent decision-making with parents and carers, as long as doing so does not compromise the safety of a child or young person, nor breach the Special Olympics Australia [Privacy Policy](#).

This commitment was endorsed and approved by Special Olympics Australia on 17 January 2022:



Pierre Comis
Chief Executive Officer