



# Illawarra Venues Authority

## CHILD PROTECTION & INTERVENTION POLICY

SUBJECT: Child Protection and Intervention  
Policy  
Policy No: IVA 033

ISSUE	ISSUE/REVIEW DATE	REVIEWED BY	APPROVED BY MANAGER	
		NAME	NAME	SIGNATURE
1	19/12/2008	Peter Lanyon	Chris Christodoulou	Signature on file
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## **1 EXECUTIVE STATEMENT**

The issue of child abuse is a complex problem that has an impact on all areas of society, including participation in sport and recreation activities.

The Wood Royal Commission into the NSW Police Service, led to increased community awareness of the significant number of child sexual assaults and incidents of abuse which occur. It also highlighted the need for the development and implementation of strategies to protect children from abusive situations.

Protecting children from abuse is a responsibility that we must all undertake. Through the implementation of strategies that assist in preventing child abuse from occurring, Illawarra Venues Authority has taken a pro-active role in relation to child protection and intervention. These strategies will help to foster a safe and positive environment for children and young people to participate in activities at the Authority's venues.

In addition, development of a Child Protection and Intervention Policy and Guidelines provides the Organisation with an excellent risk management tool for developing prevention strategies and for the effective management of child protection.

Information contained in this document will create a framework and provide direction for staff, officials, volunteers, members and parents of children and young people involved in activities at the WIN Sports & Entertainment Centres. It will also help deliver a consistent approach to child protection at all levels of the sport and recreation industry.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson - Illawarra Venues Authority                      Date

## **2 POLICY STATEMENT**

Illawarra Venues Authority is committed to ensuring that the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children are maintained at all times during their participation in activities at the WIN Sports & Entertainment Centres. Illawarra Venues Authority aims to promote a safe environment for all children and to assist all staff, officials and volunteers to recognise child abuse and neglect and follow the appropriate notification procedures when reporting alleged abuse.

## **3 RATIONALE**

This policy and guidelines promote the care and protection of children participating in activities at the WIN Sports and Entertainment Centres and provides information and direction for employees, officials, volunteers and members of the Authority.

This policy and guidelines will assist Illawarra Venues Authority in establishing coordinated strategies for dealing with the problem of child abuse and neglect in a responsible, effective and consistent manner.

#### **4 OBJECTIVES**

Through the development of this policy, Illawarra Venues Authority objectives are to:

1. provide information to assist staff and volunteers in dealing with all forms of child abuse
2. provide comprehensive guidelines relating to risk minimisation and reporting/notification procedures
3. provide direction to all staff and volunteers regarding their legal responsibilities under child protection legislation
4. Promote and adopt Illawarra Venues Authority principles for child protection and intervention amongst staff, volunteers, members and parents of children participating in activities at the WIN Sports & Entertainment Centres.

#### **5 SCOPE OF POLICY**

The Child Protection Intervention Policy of Illawarra Venues Authority is applicable to all management and staff (paid, voluntary, permanent or casual) of Illawarra Venues Authority.

#### **6 IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATION**

In order to implement the child protection legislation, Illawarra Venues Authority will undertake to:

1. Implement strategies and procedures that focus on the best interests of children and meet the requirements of child protection legislation
2. Promote a safe and supportive environment for all children and young people participating in activities which come under the umbrella of the Illawarra Venues Authority.
3. Increase awareness and emphasise the importance of child protection issues to all those involved with the activities of the Illawarra Venues Authority. This includes administrators, officials, parents and their children.
4. Ensure that all staff of the Illawarra Venues Authority are aware of their responsibilities arising from recent child protection legislation, in particular, the requirement under the Child Protection (Prohibited Employment) Act 1998, to inform their employers if they have been convicted of a serious sex offence.

#### **7 EXPECTATIONS**

Administrators, officials, members and volunteers often have a high level of contact with children in the sporting and recreational environment and play a major part in the successful operation of these activities.

The Illawarra Venues Authority expects that all staff, administrators and officials whether paid or unpaid, who participate in activities at the WIN Sports & Entertainment Centres will commit to implementing risk management strategies developed by the Illawarra Venues Authority for child protection and intervention.

## **8 POLICY REVIEW**

The Illawarra Venues Authority Child Protection and Intervention Policy and Guidelines will be reviewed annually and updated in line with any legislative changes that have significant impact on the manner in which child protection and intervention issues are to be dealt with.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Stuart Barnes - General Manager**