



CHILD SAFETY POLICY

This Policy was approved by the Blue Light SA (Inc.) State Council on 2 July 2007 and endorsed by members at the Annual General Meeting. It is due to be reviewed on 3 August, 2010.

This policy demonstrates the strong commitment of Blue Light management, Police Officers and volunteers to child safety and provides an outline of the policies and practices developed to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse and neglect. Blue Light S.A (Inc.) is a child safe organisation.

Commitment to child safety

All children involved in Blue Light activities/initiatives have a right to feel and be safe all of the time. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority. As a child safe organization we take action to protect children from physical, sexual, emotional and psychological abuse and neglect. This commitment to protecting children is embedded in Blue Light's culture. Responsibility for taking action is understood and accepted at all levels of the organisation. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment to ensure children feel safe and have fun.

Children's rights to safety and participation

As a child safe organization, Blue Light values and embraces the opinions and views of children. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect children. We encourage and assist children to build skills that will assist them to participate successfully in society. We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices. We listen to and act on any concerns children or their carers raise with us.

Employment of staff and volunteers

Blue Light seeks to attract and retain the best supervisors – both Police Officers and volunteers. We provide support, management and leadership so that people feel valued, respected and fairly treated. We have developed a Code of Conduct to provide guidance to our volunteers, all of whom receive instruction on the requirements of the code.

Reporting a child safety concern

Blue Light State Council representatives and Blue Light Branch committee members are nominated as Child Safety Persons with the specific responsibility for supporting Police Officers, volunteers, carers or children to report suspected child abuse or neglect. The State Co-ordinator, Blue Light oversees Blue Light's response to any complaints.