

Child Protection & Intervention Policy

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, Leichhardt Saints 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 physical activities.

In addition, development of 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 abuse issues within sport.

Information contained in this document will create a framework and provide direction for staff, officials, coaches, volunteers, members and parents of children and young people involved in Leichhardt Saints. It will help deliver a consistent approach to child abuse prevention at all levels of the sport and recreation industry.

Liam Griffith, President

1 April 2007

POLICY STATEMENT

Leichhardt Saints is committed to ensuring that the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children are maintained at all times during their participation in activities run by the Club.

We aim to promote a safe environment for all children and to assist all staff, officials, coaches, members and volunteers to recognise child abuse and neglect and follow the appropriate notification procedures when reporting alleged abuse.

RATIONALE

The focus of the policy and guidelines is the prevention of child abuse in the sporting environment.

This policy and the guidelines promote the care and protection of children participating in soccer and provide information and direction for employees, official, coaches, volunteers and members of the organisation.

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

OBJECTIVES

Through the development of this policy Leichhardt Saints' 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 principles for child protection and intervention amongst staff, volunteers, coaches, members and parents of children participating in the organisation's programs and competitions.

SCOPE OF
POLICY

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

IMPLEMENTATION
OF LEGISLATION

In order to implement the child protection legislation Leichhardt Saints 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 our Club.
3. increase awareness and emphasise the importance of child protection issues in a sporting environment to all those involved with the activities of the Saints. This includes administrators, coaches, officials, athletes, parents and their children.
4. ensure that all staff and volunteers of Leichhardt Saints 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.

EXPECTATIONS

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

Coaches and officials are often seen as role models. They have significant influence on the children they come into contact with and therefore have significant responsibilities.

Leichhardt Saints expects that all administrators, coaches and officials whether paid or unpaid, who participate in organised sport under the banner of this Organisation will commit to implementing risk management strategies developed by The Saints for child protection and intervention.

POLICY
REVIEW

Leichhardt Saints' 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: Liam Griffith (Head of Organisation)

Date 1 April 2007