

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

QDU Child and Youth Risk Strategy

Introduction

The Queensland Debating Union's (QDU) child and youth risk management strategy creating safe and supportive service environments for children and young people is everyone's business. Our organisation is committed to providing the highest standard of service to children and young people and ensuring they are kept safe from harm.

In order to create a safe and supportive service environment for children and young people, a proactive approach by all stakeholders to initiate such behaviours as well as a maintenance of ongoing planning and commitment.

In a safe and supportive environment, services and activities are provided so children and young people:

- feel safe and protected from harm whilst debating in QDU competitions
- are respected at all times, and
- have their best interests considered and upheld.

Policy Compliance

In accordance with the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000, the QDU is required to have a written child and youth risk management strategy to protect the children and young people that we come in contact with through our dealings as a provider of debating competitions and associated workshops, adjudicating services and any other purpose as directed by the QDU Executive. The QDU's Child and Youth Risk Strategy will help ensure that all QDU competitions, workshops and other activities are a safe and supportive service environment for children and young people, by identifying and minimising risks. Screening employees and all of our volunteers through the blue card system is part of the strategy.

The child and youth risk management strategy addresses the following elements:

- a statement of commitment
- a code of conduct for interacting with children and young people
- procedures for recruiting, selecting, training and managing paid employees and volunteers
- policies and procedures for handling disclosures or suspicions of harm, including reporting guidelines
- a plan for managing breaches of the child and youth risk management strategy
- policies and procedures for implementing and reviewing the child and youth risk management strategy and maintaining an employee register for blue cards
- risk management plans for high-risk activities and special events, and strategies for communication and support.

As a parent/carer, it is important for you to understand the policies and procedures that form the child and youth risk management strategy. A copy of the strategy is available on the QDU website and available for download. The following policy and procedures will ensure that QDU volunteers and staff respond as quickly as possible and in the best interests of the child or young person under 18 years of age, when disclosures or suspicions of harm are received. The QDU recognises that children and young people are vulnerable members of the community and that extra measures must be taken to protect and support them.