

CHILD SAFE POLICY - MEMBERS



Introduction

Southcoast Health and Sustainability Alliance (SHASA) is an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation that champions renewable energy, sustainability and community resilience projects in the Eurobodalla.

The aim of this document is to outline SHASA's commitment to child safety to ensure that all SHASA projects, events and activities occur in a child safe manner. This policy applies to all SHASA members and SHASA volunteers.

Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

SHASA:

- has zero tolerance for child abuse
- has systems to protect children from abuse, and will take all allegations and concerns very seriously and responds to them consistently in line with the organisation's policies and procedures
- is committed to promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal children, and for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

Application of the policy

This policy is applicable when children are involved in a SHASA sponsored project, event or activity. It is the responsibility of the relevant project or activity leader to conduct a risk based assessment and determine what action, if any, is needed to ensure the project or activity complies with this policy.

The types of risks to be consider may involve:

Identified risk	Actions to minimise risk
Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A child is any person under 18 years of age.
Acknowledgement of policy	SHASA members and casual volunteers for a SHASA event or at a Haven that will likely involve contact with children will read and acknowledge this policy before participating in the event. SHASA members who are regular volunteers at havens and SHASA events involving children should obtain a WWCC and provide details of this to SHASA.
Appropriate behaviour	Appropriate behaviour at a SHASA event or Haven must promptly consult with other SHASA members at the SHASA

	event or Haven about an appropriate course of action.
Physical contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • where physical contact is required, this is undertaken in a safe way by explaining why contact is required and what will happen, and asking the child/young person for their permission (or their parent/guardian/carer if this is more appropriate) before proceeding. • unnecessary physical contact is not allowed • privacy when children or young people are bathing, toileting and dressing must be provided • children will not be left under the supervision of unauthorised persons.
Online communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all online communication (such as email and messaging) with children will go through their parent/guardian/carer and children will not be friended and/or followed on social media platforms.
Transport of children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parents/guardians must provide consent • the vehicle must be registered, insured and in roadworthy condition and the driver hold a valid, unrestricted licence and hold a valid WWCC.
Supervision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if providing one to one consultation with a child or young person, it will be in line of sight of another adult and the person providing the consultation must hold a valid WWCC.
Taking images of children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consent of child young person and their parent/guardian required • disclosure will be made as to how the image is to be used and consent must be provided by the child, young person and parent/guardian
Physical environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the environment must be safe, secure and all equipment be in good working order
Privacy and confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all documents containing confidential information will be stored privately in a place with restricted access. • no information regarding any child or young person without written consent of the child, young person and their parent/guardian will be disclosed

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the SHASA Code of Conduct policy.

Concerns

Concerns with respect to an alleged breach of this Policy can be reported to the President, Vice President or any committee member.

Concerns will be treated seriously and acted on promptly.

Any concerns over immediate risk to a child should be reported to the Police.