

# South East Radio Group

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## Child safe information and policy

From time to time members may participate in club activities that involve children (0-17 years of age). This policy exists so that firstly and primarily children are safe at these activities and secondly our members are safe from being placed in a risky situation.

The SA Children's Protection Act 1993 was established to ensure children are safe from harm.

We have a community responsibility to ensure the spirit of the Act.

What does the Act say:

**We fit** the definition of a non-government organisation *"(a) a business; or (b) a service provider; or (c) a group organised for some purpose, work or undertaking (such as a society, club, institution or body), whether incorporated or unincorporated, and includes a local government organisation; but does not include a government organisation"*

**But we do not fit** section 4 *"This section applies to government and non-government organisations that provide health, welfare, education, sporting or recreational, religious or spiritual, child care or residential services wholly or partly for children"*

Ours is an organisation entirely for adults at this time. We do not regularly provide for children, our work with scouts is occasional at best. Probably less than two or three times a year. Although we have child visitors occasionally (and they are welcome) we can overcome any child protection issue by having the parent present.

Following advice received from Families and Communities our members do not need police checks or training in Child Protection providing that:

- 1) In the case of Scouts we ensure that a Scout Leader or the children's parents are present whenever the child is with us.
- 2) In the case of a SERG club meeting or outing a child must be accompanied by a parent or, an adult that had been asked by the child's parent to be responsible for the child.

Our examiners are a different matter and they must have a current police check. This is a requirement of the WIA and our examiners meet this requirement.

As protection for ourselves there are some things we should always do:

- 1) Ensure the environment is safe for everyone – electrically, RF wise, no tripping hazards etc. This is an OHSW issue for us all.
- 2) A club member participating in an event where a child(ren) is present should not be alone with a child without the designated responsible person e.g. Scout Leader, parent. We treat each child in an appropriate way at all times.
- 3) Safety in numbers is a good strategy.
- 4) Never touch a child if you can avoid it, no arms around children, have the responsible adult e.g. lift the child onto a high chair to reach a microphone

Working with children is a great privilege and good fun. Protect the child and yourself.

## Section from The SA Children's Protection Act 1993

### 8C—Obligations of certain organisations

- (1) Subject to subsection (1a), an organisation to which this section applies must have in place appropriate policies and procedures for ensuring—
- (a) that appropriate reports of abuse or neglect are made under Part 4; and
  - (b) that child safe environments are established and maintained within the organisation.
- Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

(1a) An organisation formed after the commencement of this subsection must have policies and procedures in place as required under subsection (1) as soon as practicable following the formation of the organisation.

- (2) Policies and procedures—
- (a) may vary according to the size, nature and resources of the organisation; but
  - (b) must comply with any requirements prescribed in the regulations.
- (3) An organisation to which this section applies must—
- (a) within 10 days after putting in place policies and procedures as required under subsection (1), lodge with the Chief Executive a statement setting out the policies and procedures; and
  - (b) respond, as soon as reasonably practicable (and in any case within 10 business days), to any written request by the Chief Executive for information relating to the organisation's compliance with the requirements of this section. Maximum penalty: \$5 000.
- (4) This section applies to government and non-government organisations that provide health, welfare, education, sporting or recreational, religious or spiritual, child care or residential services wholly or partly for children

### 8D—Exemptions etc

- (1) The regulations may exempt organisations, persons and positions, or particular classes of organisations, persons and positions, from the application of this Division or from specified provisions of this Division.
- (2) The regulations may, for transitional purposes—
- (a) provide that this Division, or specified provisions of this Division, will not apply in relation to an organisation, person or position, or a class of organisation, person or position, until a specified day; or
  - (b) modify the application of this Division, or provisions of this Division, in relation to an organisation, person or position, or a class of organisation, person or position, until a specified day.
- (3) Subsection (2) is in addition to, and does not derogate from, subsection (1).

non-government organisation means—

- (a) a business; or
- (b) a service provider; or
- (c) a group organised for some purpose, work or undertaking (such as a society, club, institution or body), whether incorporated or unincorporated, and includes a local government organisation; but does not include a government organisation