

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS ABOUT SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Our Commitment

Starlight is committed to ensuring the safety of all children and young people who participate in our programs, including safeguarding them from abuse and neglect.

Starlight's National Board of Directors and Executive actively support our commitment to safeguarding children and young people.

To deliver on our commitment we have developed three key policies including our:

1. **Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy**
2. **Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct Policy**
3. **Safeguarding Children and Young People Reporting and Responding Policy**

These policies guide:

- The selection of our team including volunteers.
- The behaviour of our team towards children and young people.
- The onboarding and training of our team about safeguarding children and young people.
- How we communicate with children, young people and their parents.
- How we will respond to abuse and neglect if it occurs.
- How we continue to maintain a safeguarding culture.

The Starlight team are required to:

- Undergo an extensive screening process including a National Criminal Records Check and a Working with Children Check.
- Behave professionally and with care towards children and young people and always act within the boundaries of their roles.
- Understand their responsibility to protect children and young people from all forms of abuse, bullying and exploitation when they are interacting with Starlight.
- Ensure a culture of safety for children and young people that is understood and upheld by everyone who interacts with Starlight.
- Identify, report and respond to any concerns about child abuse or neglect towards children or young people, including reporting any suspected child abuse to the relevant authorities and Child Protection offices.

Further information regarding our commitment to safeguarding children and young people can be found on our website at www.starlight.org.au, including access to our three key policies.