



Upper Murray Horseman's Association

Child Safe Policy

Written By: Michael Palmer – UMHA President
Approved By: UMHA Committee – 12th October 2017

Purpose

This policy was written to demonstrate the strong commitment of the members and volunteers of the Upper Murray Horseman's Association (UMHA) to child safety and to provide an outline of the policies and practices the Club has developed to keep everyone safe from any harm, including abuse.

Commitment to Child Safety

All children who are a part of UMHA have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children in our care will always be our first priority and UMHA has a zero tolerance to child abuse. UMHA aims to continue developing a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun and UMHA activities are always carried out in the best interests of the children.

Application of this Policy

This policy was developed by UMHA and in collaboration with members, volunteers and the children who participate in our events and their parents.

This policy applies to all individuals involved in our organisation (paid and volunteer) including, but not limited to:

- Members
- Instructors
- Officials
- Participants
- Parents
- Spectators.

All of the people to which this policy applies have a role and responsibility in relation to child protection. They must all:

- understand the indicators and risks of child abuse;
- appropriately act on any concerns raised by children; and
- understand and follow all applicable laws in relation to the protection of children and reporting or management of child safety concerns.

Child Abuse

Child abuse can take a broad range of forms including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and neglect. People to whom this policy applies need to be aware that child abuse can occur whenever there is actual or potential harm to a child, and these are circumstances that UMHA is committed to reducing the risk of occurrence.

Children's Rights to Safety and Participation



UMHA encourages children to express their views about their safety. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all children who participate in our events to 'have a say' about things that are important to them.

We aim to coach & develop children about what they can do if they feel unsafe. We listen to and act on any concerns children, or their parents/guardians, raise with us.

Valuing Diversity

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discriminatory practices. To achieve this we:

- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of all members children and their families;
- promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and their families and,
- welcome children with all physical abilities and their families and act to promote their participation.

UMHA Members & Volunteers

The Club takes the following steps to ensure best practice standards in the recruitment and screening of volunteers:

- Keep a register of members who have Working with Children Checks
- Utilise the support of members with Working with Children Checks at our events.

Reporting a child safety concern or complaint

Concerns or complaints can be reported to any UMHA Committee Member – contact details are in the UMGA Newsletter or can be found on the UMHA website www.umhahorseclub.asn.au . All concerns or complaints are to be raised & addressed at the next UMHA Committee meeting unless deemed necessary for immediate committee member intervention.

Risk Management

We recognise the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform our policy, procedures and activity planning. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of mistreatment to our children. To reduce the risk of child abuse occurring, adults to whom this policy applies should avoid direct, unsupervised contact with children. For example, this should be a consideration when:

- using change room facilities;
- using accommodation or overnight stays;
- travel; or
- physical contact when coaching or working with children.

Reviewing this policy

This policy will be reviewed every two years and we undertake to seek views, comments and suggestions from children, parents, carers, members and volunteers involved in UMHA.