

Memo

To Association Executives, Club Executives, Delegates, Netball NSW Board Members

From Matt Allen, Policy and Member Protection Manager, Lucy Sayers, Policy and Member Protection Officer

CC Melissa Achten, General Manager Communities

Date Tuesday, 22 February 2022

Re **Office of the Children’s Guardian – Child Safe Scheme and available resources**

Child Safe Scheme Commencement

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended 10 child safe standards, to apply consistently across organisations engaged in child-related work. These standards will help clubs and associations to achieve and maintain a child safe culture where the best interests of children and their protection from harm is the highest priority. From 1 February 2022, these standards are now a legislative requirement and Netball NSW (**NNSW**) and our Affiliates must now show how we are implementing the Child Safe Standards. For further information on the 10 standards, their purpose, and how they apply to your organisation, please refer to the NSW Office of the Children’s Guardian (**OCG**) guide to the standards at: [Guide to the Child Safe Standards \(nsw.gov.au\)](#). The OCG has also created a helpful video summary of the standards which can be found at: [Child Safe Standards and the Child Safe Scheme - YouTube](#) and we encourage all interested members of your organisation to watch this video.

Netball NSW and the OCG is committed to assisting clubs and associations to begin to imbed the standards within their organisation through resources, training and support.

2022 Key Priorities

NNSW is currently in the final stages of developing and implementing a Child Safeguarding Policy which is focused on imbedding the Child Safe Standards into our organisations policies and procedures. Affiliates will be encouraged to adopt this Child Safeguarding Policy. We have committed to focusing on the following standards in 2022;

- Standard 1 – Child Safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance, and culture.
- Standard 6 – Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse are child focused.
- Standard 8 – Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur.
- Standard 9 – Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved.
- Standard 10 – Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe.

[Click here](#) to view the full list of Child Safe Standards.

Training and Resources Offered by the Office of the Children's Guardian

To support organisations in implementing the Child Safe Standards, the OCG are taking expressions of interest for introductory webinars on the background and implementation of the standards. If you are interested, please reach out to Matt Sibley, the Child Safe Officer for Sport at Matt.Sibley@ocg.nsw.gov.au.

The OCG also has a range of useful resources which will assist your organisation to become child safe. We encourage all affiliates to review and utilise the various resources [available here](#).

Self-Assessment Tool

The OCG have now launched a self-assessment tool which is designed to support organisations in implementing the child safe standards. This tool is supported by a team of Child Safe Officers and is comprised of a pre-questionnaire on the standards and their components, an interview, and finally a report outlining the strengths and areas of improvement for an organisation. This is an important way for organisations to receive feedback and support which is tailored and specific to them. If your organisation is interested in utilising this tool please contact Matt Sibley by emailing Matt.Sibley@ocg.nsw.gov.au.

Media Kit

The OCG have also developed a media kit [available here](#) which is designed to help organisations in promoting the Child Safe Standards. There are a whole range of graphics and resources available which explain each of the standards and their core components including posters, social media tiles, messages, and banners. This kit is a useful tool to let your community know how you're working to keep children and young people safe and to raise awareness and understanding of the standards amongst your organisation.

Next Steps

- 1) Adopt and implement NSW's Child Safeguarding Policy when it becomes available. Please reach out to policy@netballnsw.com if you have any questions about implementing this policy within your organisation or how this applies to you.
- 2) Express your interest to join an OCG introductory webinar or attend the [2022 Netball NSW Forums](#) to learn more about the scheme.
- 3) Utilise the OCG resources [available here](#) to begin to review the Child Safe Practices within your organisation and to promote the Child Safe Standards within your netball community.
- 4) Keep an eye out for notifications from the OCG and NSW about various resources and training opportunities which will be released throughout the year. Child Safe Officers are also available to run specific training sessions for clubs and associations. Register your interest by [clicking here](#), or contacting Matt Sibley, Child Safe Officer (Sport), by emailing Matt.Sibley@ocg.nsw.gov.au
- 5) Contact the [NSW Policy and Member Protection team](#) or the [OCG](#) if you have any questions or require additional support.

Please contact policy@netballnsw.com with any further questions.