



CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

It is the policy of The Boys' Brigade Australia (also referred to as BB) to define the standards required for adult leaders in respect to child protection operating within any part of the organisation. The aim of this policy is to clearly define the organisation's position in relation to the protection of children and our response to their abuse.

The policy is:

'The Boys' Brigade Australia does not tolerate any acts of abuse, physical, mental or sexual, towards children or adults and will actively seek to prevent its occurrence. To this end, any adult leader with recorded convictions for violence, sexual assault, acts of indecency, child pornography, or any crime against a minor will NOT be eligible nor allowed to undertake any leadership roles within the organisation and if currently a leader will immediately be disqualified from being a leader.'

As the local part of BB is a Christian Church or Mission local ministry, this policy is implemented with the understanding that **each Leader requires the official sanction of the Church or Christian Mission** of which their Company is a part. It does not negate this requirement but supplements it by ensuring that the organisation supports the Churches with the resources and standards that are expected. This policy is **to be used in parallel** with the local Church's own child protection policy, with neither policy negating the other.

The definition of a 'Leader' in The Boys' Brigade in relation to this policy shall be:

- **An adult 18 years or over and**
- Is in a supervisory, instructional or assisting role attending a Company night or events for more than:
 - o *Each week for a month*
 - o *Each fortnight for 2 months*
 - o *Once a month for 6 months*
 - o *Ten times in a year.*
- Or any current Office Bearer at any level in BB
- Or any honorary or life member or Reserve Leader at any level in BB.

To implement this policy The Boys' Brigade Australia will:

- Ensure that all Leaders complete the 'Volunteer Leader Application' Form.
- Ensure that all Leaders complete a re-declaration form every two years.
- Ensure that all Leaders undertake appropriate police checks or requirements as stipulated by State & Federal Law. If possible, these will be rechecked every two years. Where state authorities have not legislated for these checks, Leaders indicate their willingness to be checked by Police for convictions in line with the BBA Child Protection Policy statement, and to this end are to complete an appropriate Police Check form, with this form held in the local State Office and processed if the State Executive so deems it appropriate.
- Maintain appropriate records of all leaders by State and National Offices including any training undertaken. This may be done through the local state office.
- If informed from a Police Check that a person has a relevant conviction, will inform the local ministry and the person of such and advise that they the person can not be utilised by BB in any position unless this information is rescinded by the Police.
- Ensure that any breaches of this policy are immediately advised to the Executive Officer of The Boys' Brigade Australia as well as the appropriate persons in the local Church that the Company is a part of.
- Ensure that non-approved persons (by Police Check) will neither be utilised directly with children or in any Office Bearer positions at any level in BB.

Upon appropriate notification of any possible breach of the policy The Boys' Brigade Australia in partnership with the local Church Leadership will:

- Notify the Company Captain and local Church Leadership, and appropriate authorities (if required) if not already advised.
- Immediately remove the person from contact with children,
- Ensure a compassionate, honest, and appropriate response to the victim including providing an opportunity for the victim to be heard.
- Ensure adequate counselling and support is provided for the victim, Staff and Boys and possibly affected families of the Company.
- Facilitate appropriate counselling and support is provided for the alleged offender, this does not necessarily include financial assistance. This is negated if the person removes him or herself from BB fellowship and refuses assistance.

All Response Coordination and Media Liaison are only to be conducted by the BBA Executive Officer or a person appointed by the BBA Board of Directors.

Notes: adopted by BBA Exec on 31st May 2002.