

AusTurtle Inc's Child Safety Policy

1. Purpose

This policy outlines our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of children involved in AusTurtle's Sea Turtle volunteer program. It aligns with the Northern Territory Care and Protection of Children Act 2007 and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. This policy was drafted considering the health, safety, & experience of all our volunteers, the integrity of the research project, and the workload on camp leaders.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all volunteers, staff, and committee members in the sea turtle volunteer program. The term child applies to anyone under the age of 18.

3. Commitment to Child Safety

We are committed to the safety and well-being of all children and young people involved in our program. We support and respect all children, as well as our volunteers and staff.

4. Legislative Framework

This policy is guided by the Northern Territory Care and Protection of Children Act 2007 and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

5. Principles

- **Best Interests of the Child:** All decisions and actions concerning a child will prioritize their best interests.
- **Respect and Dignity:** Children will be treated with respect and dignity at all times.
- **Safety and Well-being:** Ensuring the physical and emotional safety of children is paramount.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Program Coordinators:** Ensure all volunteers have a valid Working with Children Clearance (Ochre Card) and are trained in child safety protocols.
- **Volunteers:** Adhere to child safety protocols and report any concerns or incidents to the program coordinators.
- **Children and Parents:** Encouraged to communicate any concerns regarding their safety and well-being.

7. Recruitment and Screening

All volunteers must undergo a thorough screening process, including obtaining a Working with Children Clearance (Ochre Card). This applies to children over the age of 15 years old.

Volunteers under 18 years old will be considered on a case by case basis. Please contact AusTurtle Inc. by email before booking for an under-age volunteer.



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9. Reporting and Responding to Child Safety Concerns

Any concerns or allegations of child abuse will be taken seriously and reported to the appropriate authorities in accordance with the Northern Territory Care and Protection of Children Act 2007.

10. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and compliant with current legislation and best practices.