

## **CHILD SAFE POLICY**

### STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT:

Upwey Township Group (UTG) is a Child Safe organisation, with zero tolerance for child abuse and a commitment to children's best interests. All children who participate in our activities have a right to feel and be safe. We encourage children to express their views and we listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. Physical or sexual abuse of a child, including grooming for sexual conduct with a child under the age of 16 years, is a crime. Members of UTG who reasonably believe they have witnessed such abuse must by legal obligation, report it to relevant authorities, which may include Police.

### KEY RISKS

- Physical or Sexual abuse
- Grooming (abuse of trust usually occurs where there is an ongoing relationship)
- Inappropriate child-to-child or adult-to-child contact
- Circulation of sexually explicit material

### RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Be aware of Child Safety to deter inappropriate behaviour
- Promote Child-Safe Policy in activity briefings and on UTG website
- Listen if children report feeling uncomfortable
- Make sure children and adults know whom to go to, if they have concerns.
- If families bring children to activities, immediately advise the parent or carer that they must directly supervise their children at all times
- Avoid, where possible, being solely responsible for others' children
- Where possible, design activities so there are clear sightlines and obstruct any hidden places that could conceal inappropriate conduct
- Promote Code of Conduct covering Child Safety to membership
- Encourage each Committee member to have a Working with Children check.

### EMPOWER CHILDREN

- Ask any children involved for their ideas, about what will make them, and other children feel and be safe.

### CODE OF CONDUCT

#### UTG members

- will take all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse
- will model appropriate adult behaviour
- will listen to children and respond to them appropriately
- will welcome all children and their parents or carers, and will be inclusive
- will report any complaints, concerns or disclosures regarding Child Safety to a UTG Office-Bearer as noted below.  
The Office-Bearer will then address such concerns and/or report them to Council
- will respect privacy of children and only disclose information to people who need to know
- will not ignore or disregard any complaints, concerns, or disclosures regarding child safety
- will not develop 'special' relationships with specific children or show favouritism with gifts or inappropriate attention
- will not exchange personal contact details such as phone numbers, social networking site or email addresses with children.

### CONTACTS (January 2020)

In order of seriousness, advise UTG President Andrew Fullagar, then Yarra Ranges Council's Janette Scott (1300 368 333), and if felt necessary Victoria Police on 000.