

24 February 2023

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians of our Youth Members,

Girl Guides Australia is very proud that we are a **Child Safe Child Friendly Community**. This letter will provide you with some information on what we have been doing to maintain our commitment to the safety of Youth Members of Girl Guiding in Australia.

Girl Guides has always had a commitment to providing girls and young women with an environment where they are safe, protected, and respected. A space where they can discover their potential as leaders of their world and having fun, friendship and adventures.

In 2021, Girl Guides Australia launched our **Child Safe Child Friendly Framework**. It provides clear guidance for everyone involved in Girl Guiding to understand their role in helping to keep children and young people safe, and to build on the Child Safe Child Friendly Community that is central to Girl Guiding in Australia. This Framework complies with the ***National Principles for Child Safe Organisations*** agreed to by all Australian governments in 2019 and complies with the child safety standards of all states and territories.

The Framework empowers girls, actively encourages the development of confidence and self-esteem, and supports a safe space where girls are heard. Listening to the views and wishes of all our Girl Guides and giving them a strong and clear voice is a central platform of both the Framework and the Australian Guide Program.

Since the introduction of the Framework, each of our State Girl Guide Organisations have been updating processes to support the requirements. This has required some changes to how we screen and recruit volunteers and employees. If you volunteer in your local Girl Guiding District you may have already been asked to supply a Working with Children Check, a National Police Check, referees and take part in some introductory training. We thank you for your willingness to meet our screening requirements as it provides reassurance to all our members and their families that Girl Guides is doing everything possible to continue to maintain a safe space for girls and young women.

Our Adults in Guiding, have been undertaking some additional training to help them understand more about the importance of the Child Safe Child Friendly Framework in their Girl Guide work.

The Girl Guide Promise and Guide Law have always been fundamental to all aspects of Girl Guiding and provide a foundation of expected values which are pivotal to the Child Safe Child Friendly Framework. The Code of Conduct provides further direction on the behaviours required to be adhered to by all those working with us in Girl Guiding in Australia. A copy of the Girl Guide Promise and Guide Law and the Code of Conduct are also available on the [GGA website](#).

Just as adult behaviour is important to our Child Safe Child Friendly Community, so too are the behaviours of our Youth Members. In their Guide Units girls will discuss and agree the 'rules' of their Guide Unit so as all members know the expectations of them while involved in any Unit activities. When girls are in the 'cyber' environment we ask you, as their parent/carer/guardian, supervise them carefully. There are resources on the website of the [eSafety Commissioner](#) to support you to do that. In this space it is particularly important that they respect the privacy of all other members of Girl Guides, for example, by not posting photos of other girls on social media.

As we continue to enhance our Child Safe Child Friendly Community in Girl Guiding, we may reach out to both you and our Youth Members to seek views of about particular issues including, their safety and wellbeing, the policy and practice of Girl Guiding in Australia and issues relevant to being a girl or young woman.

Please know that Girl Guides welcomes all feedback. This includes positive feedback, concerns or complaints about any action, or lack of action, by any Member, Volunteer, or Employee or any other aspect of Girl Guiding. Please refer to the Framework on our website for details on the various ways you can do this.

Girls are encouraged to raise issues of any kind with their Leaders, or to use the *Tell us what you are worried about* Youth Member Form. A copy of this form can also be found on our [website](#).

Please can I ask you to note that our Adult Members must be present to provide the appropriate supervision required to be a Child Safe Child Friendly Community. Youth Members remain in the care and custody of their parent/guardian at all other times. When dropping off and picking up your daughter you must ensure there is an Adult Member of Girl Guides onsite and that your daughter is 'checked in' with the Adult Member before leaving her at any Girl Guide activity. You are also responsible for 'checking-out' your daughter with an Adult Member and picking up promptly at the end of any Girl Guide activity.

If you would like more detail about the Girl Guides Australia Child Safe Child Friendly Framework, please refer to [Guide Lines for Girl Guides](#).

Many thanks for all you are doing to support your daughter to be a Girl Guide and to contribute to our Child Safe Child Friendly Community where girls and young women are safe, protected, and respected.

Yours faithfully,



Rosemary Derwin AM  
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