

Reporting on the Implementation of Recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Rec 17.3) – Little Athletics Australia 2020

Description of measures implemented prior to December 2020:

The further development of *National Child Protection Policy (Policy)* that will apply to a Little Athletics Centre that is conducted or administered by:

A State or Territory Association (Member Associations) that is affiliated with Little Athletics Australia includes:

- a. ACT: Little Athletics ACT
- b. NSW: Little Athletics NSW
- c. QLD: Little Athletics QLD
- d. SA: Little Athletics SA
- e. TAS: Little Athletics Tasmania
- f. VIC: Little Athletics Victoria
- g. WA: Athletics West (State Body to deliver Little Athletics in WA)

The Policy broadly applies to the Little Athletics athletes; coaches; officials; spectators; volunteers and administrators and all people reasonably connected to Little Athletics (Stakeholders).

A dedicated person or persons is or are responsible for child protection policies and procedures in each State or Territory. This practice was established to ensure better identification and administration of these issues.

State or Territory bodies implement child safe practices and education. Child Safe Training is provided by a number of different means in State or Territory bodies. These may be provided by local state government bodies and/or national bodies. For example, Play By The Rules Child Protection Online Course is promoted and recommended as additional training by some States. In addition expert and well regarded external organisations such as Bravehearts are also engaged in respect to these matters and their material is utilised and distributed by Centres and States

The LAA National Child Protection policy and procedures and the States or Territories own policies in this area are continually provided to all Stakeholders including staff, volunteers and parents in each Member Association.

LAA and Member Associations actively encourage Centres to review their child protection policies annually.

LAA and Member Associations have an adequate robust and transparent procedures to investigate, handle and if necessary, formally direct, to the appropriate authorities', complaints of child sexual abuse.

Prospective work that will be undertaken post-2020 to implement this measure:

LAA will with its State and Territory bodies continue to refine and evolve the practices and procedures set out above. This will be done together with a longer term aim and perspective to draft and implement a Code of Conduct in respect to these important matters as soon as it is practicable for the Little Athletics network including States and Centres.

Repeat the above section for the remaining Section 2 measures and themes.

Section 3: Reporting for specific non-government institutions

The Child Safe Standards are:

1. Child Safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture at both the National and State level including

- LAA National Child Protection Policy
- Continuing education on this issue and education on awareness of issue
- Working with National, State and external organisations

2. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously

3. Families and communities are informed and involved

- Member Associations remind and educate centres of the importance and policies around this subject

4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account and all parties under the policy are afforded natural justice and procedural fairness when dealing with these issues

5. People working with children are suitable and supported

- Working with Children or state equivalent required with ongoing support through centre and Member Association.

Description of measures implemented prior to December 2020:

The Child Safe Standards are:

6. Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused

- Dedicated Board member or Executive officer or High-level management established in each Member Associations

7. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training

- Ongoing training within Member Associations

8. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur

9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved

- Annual or Biannual reviews conducted

10. Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.

- LAA National Child Protection Policy or Member Association CPP provided on all websites.

Prospective work that will be undertaken post-2020 to implement this measure:

Once again LAA together with its State and Territory Associations will continue to actively monitor these measures to ensure they are appropriate fair and to ensure that they fundamentally protect children. In actively monitoring those measures we again will be refining and developing those measures to ensure they are fit for purpose but also raise awareness of these issues and make clear how these measures result in such matters being dealt with in an appropriate but sensitive manner.

LAA as the National Body for the sport will lead in this area giving clear directions as to appropriate cultural, values and standards required in dealing with these issues.