

Child Safe Policy and Statement of Commitment

U3A Healesville is committed to child safety. Overall responsibility for this policy rests with our Committee of Management.

While our core activities revolve around working with seniors in the community, there are occasions when we come into contact with children either through use of facilities or at performances. For this reason, we acknowledge that we must comply with the Victorian Government's Child Safe Standards and Mandatory Reporting expectations.

Our purpose

- To provide varied experiences and learning opportunities for people in their third age

Our focus areas

- Enable lifelong learning
- Actively promote wellbeing for people in their third age
- Actively promote community engagement
- Enable access and diversity
- Commit to be a trusted voice for seniors
- Align our organisation for growth and change

Our values

- We are welcoming and friendly
- We support each other
- We value inclusivity and diversity
- We actively seek to create new opportunities for engagement
- We respect and value our community

In line with our focus areas and values this means

- We have zero tolerance of child abuse
- All allegations and safety concerns are treated seriously
- We act on our legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are concerned about a child's safety
- We are committed to preventing child abuse, identifying risks early, removing and reducing these risks
- We are committed to educating our members on child abuse risks

Knowledge and awareness of child safety

We believe that child safety is everyone's responsibility and support this by providing child safe information to all U3A Healesville members.

Risk management

We protect children when a risk is identified. In addition to general health and safety risks, we assess and manage risks of abuse to children.

Allegations, concerns and complaints

We take all allegations and complaints seriously and investigate these thoroughly and quickly, and if any notifiable event is reported via the U3A Healesville Committee process, prompt investigation would happen. If substantiated the incident would be referred to the appropriate authorities.

We recognise that we all have a responsibility, moral and legislated, to report an allegation of abuse if we have a reasonable belief that an incident took place.

Policy updates

This policy supports all U3A Healesville members to achieve our commitments. It will be reviewed every two years and following significant incidents if they occur.

This policy may change from time to time and is available on our website.

Endorsed by the U3A Healesville Committee of Management on 21 November 2024.