

# Worksheet 4: Educate and Raise Awareness

## Safeguarding Children and Young People

### Key points:

The more people know about, and are aware of, the signs and indicators of abuse, the more likely they are to provide a safe and supportive environment that safeguards children and young people. All members are encouraged to undertake the online Safeguarding Children and Young People Awareness course to understand their responsibilities in identifying abuse and harm, assist in recognising the indicators of abuse and harm, and how to respond.

### Educating and Raising Awareness of Safeguarding Children and Young People

By now, your club should have policies and practices in place for safeguarding children and young people (see Worksheets 1-3). As a fourth step, it is important our clubs work with us to educate and raise awareness of our members, stakeholders and wider communities about safeguarding children and young people through identifying and responding to signs and indicators of abuse.

#### Why is education and raising awareness important?

Educating and raising awareness of abuse will give people more confidence in identifying and appropriately responding to questionable behaviours and occurrences of abuse.

The more educated and aware our members, stakeholders and communities are, the better equipped we will be to work together to reduce unacceptable behaviours and contribute to creating safe and positive environments for our children and young people in SLS.

#### SLSA's resources for educating and raising awareness

As part of SLSA's Commitment to Safeguarding Children and Young People, we have developed a suite of resources to assist with educating the SLS movement about safeguarding principles and raising awareness of the signs and indicators of abuse and how to respond.

Resources include SLSA's:

- 'Safeguarding Children and Young People Guideline' – This comprehensive document takes the reader through SLSA's Safeguarding Children and Young People Program and the SLSA Member Protection Policy. This document includes helpful information like definitions of concepts, background and application of the updates to the Member Protection Policy, examples of how to adhere to Codes of Conduct, indicators of abuse, ways to safeguard children and how to report concerns about a child's safety, and relevant FAQs
- 'Safeguarding Children and Young People Online Awareness Module' - This free online learning module takes the learner through an interactive and informative education experience with practical examples and scenario-based training. Completion of the course will raise awareness about the signs and indicators of abuse, including recognising harm, or the potential for harm to occur, and provides guidelines on what to do about it. The estimated learning time is 30 minutes and participants can access the resource via the SLSA Safeguarding Children and Young People landing page [sls.com.au/safeguarding](https://sls.com.au/safeguarding). SLSA members can also access this resource through the SLSA Member's Area. Members who access and complete the online course via the SLSA Members Area will obtain the SLS Safeguarding Children and Young People Awareness Award. This award will appear in your SLS awards transcript.

#### Your club's role in educating and raising awareness of safeguarding children and young people

It is your club's responsibility to educate and raise awareness about safeguarding children and young people. It is also your club's responsibility to inform members of the availability of the SLSA education resources, and to encourage your members to engage with these to learn the signs and indicators of abuse and provide a supportive environment for members and children to develop practical skills in the protection of children from harm.

To help you fulfil this responsibility, we encourage your club committee to lead by example by reviewing the Guideline document and to complete the Online Awareness Model. Once you have an idea of what the resources provide, you will be in a better position to encourage your club members to engage with the resources also.



**Action plan**

- Distribute the Guideline document and the link to the Online Awareness Module to your club committee, allowing enough time to review the document and participate in the online module (approx. 30 minutes to complete the module) prior to the relevant meeting which you have designated to address these action items
- Encourage discussion at your committee meeting and consider any implications for club practices. For instance, your club might consider including the online module in formal training or inductions.
- Follow up with promotion of the education resources to your club membership.

**What next?**

We encourage you to disseminate information about the Guideline and Online Awareness Module to your members and where relevant to stakeholders and broader community. Some strategies include:

- Provide links to the Guideline and Online Awareness Module somewhere prominent on your club website
- Promote the Guideline and Online Awareness Module in your club newsletter and/or via social media
- Schedule an annual review time for the club committee to engage with the resources again and continue promotion to your club membership and stakeholders maintain and continue to improve safeguarding practice.

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