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Cake Decorators Association of Victoria Inc.

A00006034

Child Safety Policy

The Cake Decorators Association of Victoria is committed to child safety. We have a small number of Junior members (under 18 years). Our contact with children is limited to demonstrating at local agricultural shows where children are accompanied by a known adult. Children may also attend a cake decorating workshop or demonstrations run by the CDAV and again are accompanied or supervised by a known adult.

Our commitment to child safety is as follows:-

- We want children to be safe and happy and we support and respect all children, as well as our members.
- We are committed to the safety of all children who participate in our activities.
- We have zero tolerance of child abuse, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously.
- We understand that we have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety.
- Our organisation is committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks and removing and reducing these risks.
- We support and respect all children, as well as our members. We are committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, children from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

Our children

We promote diversity and tolerance in our organisation, and people from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds are welcome.

In particular we:

- promote the cultural safety and participation of children from Aboriginal and culturally diverse and linguistically diverse background

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Po Box 260
Ashburton Vic 3147

- ensure that children with a disability are safe and can participate equally.

Our members

Our members are aware that we have a child safety policy and understand that they should report any allegations of child abuse or child safety concerns.

If we believe a child is at **immediate** risk of abuse, we will phone 000.

If we are concerned about a child then it will be reported to the President of the local CDAV branch or main body and any inappropriate behaviour will be reported through appropriate channels, including a report to Child Protection at the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing or Victoria Police, depending on the severity and urgency of the matter.

Members engaged in child-related work such as demonstrating at agricultural shows in Victoria are required to hold a Working with Children Check and to provide evidence of this check to the Main body or Branch Secretary of the CDAV on request. Please see the Working with Children Check website <www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au> for further information

Privacy

Any personal information considered will respect the privacy of the individuals involved unless there is a risk to someone's safety. Our obligation is to report concerns to the relevant authority and CDAV would not hold or retain any personal information about a child. This information would be held by the relevant authority.

Legislative responsibilities

Our organisation takes our legal responsibilities seriously, including:

- Failure to disclose: Reporting child sexual abuse is a community-wide responsibility. All adults in Victoria who have a reasonable belief that an adult has committed a sexual offence against a child under 16 have an obligation to report that information to the police.
- Failure to protect: People of authority in our organisation will commit an offence if they know of a substantial risk of child sexual abuse and have the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk, but negligently fail to do so.
- Mandatory reporters must comply with their duties as required under the *Children, Youth and Families Act 2005*.

Regular review

This policy will be reviewed every as required and following significant incidents if they occur.

Allegations, concerns, and complaints

Our organisation takes allegations seriously and has a process in place to manage any concerns.

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

If an adult has a reasonable belief that an incident has occurred, then they must report the incident to the branch or main body president. Factors contributing to reasonable belief may be:

- a child states they or someone they know has been abused (noting that sometimes the child may in fact be referring to themselves)
- someone else has raised a suspicion of abuse but is unwilling to report it

Date of Endorsement

21st March 2023