

# **West Gippsland Music & Drama Eisteddfod Inc.**

## **Child Safety Policy**

West Gippsland Music & Drama Eisteddfod Inc (WGM&DE) is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children. Everyone involved with the WGM&DE is responsible for the care and protection of children and reporting information about child abuse.

This policy demonstrates our strong commitment child safety and provides an outline of the processes we have developed to keep everyone safe from any harm. It applies to all volunteers, children and individuals involved with the WGM&DE.

### **Commitment to child safety**

All children have a right to feel and be safe. The welfare of the children involved in the WGM&DE will always be our first priority and we have a zero tolerance to child abuse. We aim to create a child safe and child friendly environment where children feel safe and have fun.

### **Children's rights to safety and participation**

WGM&DE volunteers encourage children to express their views. We listen to their suggestions, especially on matters that directly affect them. We actively encourage all children who use our services to 'have a say' about things that are important to them. We listen to and act on any concerns children, or their parents, raise with us.

### **Valuing diversity**

All children regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, family, or social background, have equal rights to protection from abuse and to feel safe while participating in our Eisteddfod. WGM&DE is committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, and those from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and providing them with a safe environment. We also welcome people with a disability and their families and actively promote their participation.

### **Supporting volunteers**

All WGM&DE volunteers are required to have up to date Working with Children Checks, and to have read and signed our Volunteer Code of Conduct. We provide support so people feel valued, respected and fairly treated, but also ensure no WGM&DE volunteer is alone with children at any time.

### **Reporting a child safety concern or complaint**

The President of the WGM&DE is appointed as the Child Safety Officer with the specific responsibility for responding to any complaints made by volunteers, parents or children.

### **Risk management**

We recognise the importance of a risk management approach to minimising the potential for child abuse or harm to occur and use this to inform procedures and activity planning. In addition to general occupational health and safety risks, we proactively manage risks of abuse to our children.

**Adopted:** 13th March 2018

**For Review:** March 2020