



BALLARAT GOLD

Standard 2 – Child protection Statement of Commitment

Ballarat Gold is committed to zero tolerance of child abuse. All members of the Ballarat Gold community have a duty of care to protect the safety, health and wellbeing of children in their care.

As an organisation with a diverse population, this includes students with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Swimming Australia, Swimming Victoria and Ballarat Gold endorse and support the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (ratified in Australia in 1990). The Convention recognises that Children or Young People under the age of 18 years need special care and protection.

Child abuse includes:

- any act committed against a child involving
 - a sexual offence; or
 - an offence under section 49B(2) of the Crimes Act 1958 (grooming);and
- the infliction, on a child, of
 - Physical violence; or
 - Serious emotional or psychological harm; and
- serious neglect of a child

ALL adults in Victoria have a personal obligation to report suspicions of sexual abuse. Failure to report, is not just a failure to follow BALLARAT GOLDS' commitment, but could also be a criminal offence. Complying with obligations under the Ballarat Gold reporting process can go some way to also fulfilling this personal obligation.

In recognition of our support for the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Swimming Australia and Ballarat Gold make the following commitments:

Our commitment to Children or Young People

- Ballarat Gold is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all Children or Young People who access any of our activities, programs, events or services.
- Ballarat Gold is committed to providing Children or Young People with positive and nurturing experiences.
- Ballarat Gold will support families and communities to promote Children or Young People's healthy development and wellbeing.

- Ballarat Gold will endeavour to ensure that Children or Young People are protected.
- Ballarat Gold will endeavour to ensure that Children or Young People are not exploited, Abused or Harmed during their involvement with any of our activities, programs, events or services.
- Ballarat Gold will listen to Children or Young People and address any concerns that they raise with us.
- Ballarat Gold will ask for consent from Children, Young People and their parents/carers before we seek out or provide information about them to any other individuals or organisation. However, we may not ask for consent to disclose information to Police, regulatory authorities or relevant statutory child protection agencies in the event that we have concerns about the safety and wellbeing of a specific Child or Young Person.

Our commitment to parents and carers

- Ballarat Gold is committed to supporting parents and carers to protect their Children or Young People.
- Ballarat Gold will offer assistance that builds on a family's strengths, is sensitive to their cultural and religious beliefs and empowers them to meet the changing needs of their Children or Young People.
- Ballarat Gold are committed to communicating honestly and openly with parents and carers about the wellbeing and safety of their Children or Young People.
- Ballarat Gold will promote and distribute information about this Child Protection Commitment Statement to Children, Young People and parents/carers as part of an introduction to our services and programs. The information will be made available in a developmentally appropriate language and translated to accommodate the main communities that access our services.
- Ballarat Gold aim to be transparent in our decision-making with parents and carers as long as doing so does not compromise the safety of Children or Young People or breach any confidentiality obligations.

Our commitment to ensuring a child safe organisation

- Ballarat Gold is committed to using best practice standards in the recruitment, screening and employment of any Persons in Positions of Authority.
- Ballarat Gold will endeavour to create an environment in which Children or Young People are safe and feel safe in any of our program, activities, or events.

- Ballarat Gold will endeavour to ensure that Persons in Positions of Authority do not Harm, Abuse or exploit Children or Young People who are involved with our programs or services.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Entity	Role/Responsibility
<p>Swimming Australia, Swimming Victoria Limited</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the commitment to this Statement and its expectations. • Support policy review on an annual cycle as a minimum or at a time governed by legislation, regulations, Australian Sports Commission directions or organisational learnings that promote a change to the Statement and all relevant policy or procedural guidelines. • Strive to ensure compliance to the Statement via an inbuilt review mechanism. • Strive to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to allow for the periodic review of a Swimming Australia Safe Sport Commitment and all relevant policy and procedure creation and review, inclusive of effective implementation. • Develop opportunities for regular discussion at all levels to support a culture of openness and continued improvement and accountability to child protection and Member welfare. • Advocate and promote Child or Young Persons' rights, empowering and engaging Children or Young People in support of this Statement and its expectations.
<p>Ballarat Gold</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballarat Gold strive to ensure that all Persons in Positions of Authority understand their obligations in accordance with the Child Protection Commitment Statement and any relevant policy and procedural documentation. • Ballarat Gold strive to ensure that the Child Protection Commitment Statement is implemented and adhered to amongst its Members, staff, officials, volunteers and Participants. • Ballarat Gold strive to ensure that the development and implementation of required internal policy/work procedures and guidelines are in place to support Child or Young Person protection practice in accordance with the expectations of the Child Protection Commitment Statement. • Ballarat Gold strive to ensure that adequate resources are allocated to allow effective implementation of the Child Protection Commitment Statement. • Ballarat Gold advocate and promote Child or Young Person rights, empowering and engaging Children or Young People in support of this Statement. • Ballarat Gold proactively share resources and experience in the development of child-safe initiatives in swimming as they are identified. • Ballarat Gold develop opportunities for regular discussion at all levels to support a culture of continuous improvement and accountability of Child or Young Person protection and Member welfare. For example, in team meetings or regular forums – include as a regular agenda item.