

The Melbourne Camera Club

Child Safety Code of Conduct

1. *All members of The Melbourne Camera Club are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour towards and in the company of children, as noted below.*
2. *All members of The Melbourne Camera Club are responsible for supporting the safety, participation, well-being and empowerment of children by:*
 - i. adhering to The Melbourne Camera Club's child safe policy at all times / upholding The Melbourne Camera Club's statement of commitment to child safety at all times;
 - ii. taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse;
 - iii. treating everyone with respect;
 - iv. listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they are telling you that they or another child has been abused and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of another;
 - v. promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children (for example, by never questioning an Aboriginal child's self-identification);
 - vi. promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds (for example, by having a zero tolerance of discrimination);
 - vii. promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability (for example, during personal care activities);
 - viii. ensuring as far as practicable that adults are not left alone with a child;
 - ix. reporting any allegations of child abuse to The Melbourne Camera Club's Child Safety Officer / leadership, and ensure any children at immediate risk are reported to the police or child protection;
 - x. reporting any child safety concerns to The Melbourne Camera Club Child Safety Officer / leadership;
 - xi. if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe;
 - xii. encouraging children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant organisational activities where possible, especially on issues that are important to them.
3. *Members and Volunteers Must Not:*
 - i. develop any 'special' relationships with children that could be seen as favouritism (for example, the offering of gifts or special treatment for specific children);
 - ii. exhibit behaviours with children which may be construed as unnecessarily physical (for example inappropriate sitting on laps. Sitting on laps could be appropriate sometimes - for example while reading a storybook to a small child in an open plan area);
 - iii. put children at risk of abuse (for example, by locking doors);
 - iv. do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes;

- v. engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children (for example, personal social activities);
- vi. use inappropriate language in the presence of children;
- vii. express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children;
- viii. discriminate against any child, including because of culture, race, ethnicity or disability;
- ix. have contact with a child or their family outside of our organisation without our child safety officer's knowledge and/or consent (for example, no babysitting). Accidental contact, such as seeing people in the street, is appropriate;
- x. have any online contact with a child or their family (unless necessary, for example providing families with e-newsletters);
- xi. ignore or disregard any suspected or disclosed child abuse.
- xii. use personal devices to take photos of children;

4. *By observing these standards, you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code to The Melbourne Camera Club's Child Safety Officer or to the Board.*
5. *If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse phone 000.*