



D9510 Protection Provisions



The need for Youth (and Vulnerable Persons) Protection

First, it is a Rotary requirement

*Rotary International is committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for all participants in Rotary activities. It is the **duty** of all Rotarians, Rotarians' spouses, partners, and other volunteers to safeguard to the best of their ability the welfare of and to **prevent** the physical, sexual, or emotional abuse of children and young people with whom they come into contact.*

Second, the evidence from society/community.

We need to remember that just one case of abuse can lead to:

- a young life blighted by shame and guilt
- a Rotary youth program compromised and with diminished integrity

D9510 Protection Policy

DISTRICT 9510



YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY



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The basis of Youth(vulnerable persons) protection

The vast majority of abuse cases occur when the abuser is alone with their victim for a period of time which could enable grooming or abuse to occur. See Policy Sect 4.1

With that central fact in mind there are three key features which need to be kept in mind

The Basis of Youth (and Vulnerable Persons) Protection

1. Design of programs
2. Fullest checking possible of all/any who might need to be alone with participants
3. The rule of one and two

THE HEART OF PROTECTION (cont)

For the members of the club and for the vast majority of situations club members will face there is a simple rule which will ensure that all care is taken. I call it the '**RULE OF ONE AND TWO**'. That is

IF ONLY ONE YOUTH PARTICIPANT IS PRESENT, THERE MUST BE A MINIMUM OF TWO RESPONSIBLE ADULTS/ROTARIANS PRESENT

and

IF ONLY ONE RESPONSIBLE ADULT/ROTARIAN IS PRESENT, THERE MUST BE TWO OR MORE YOUTH PARTICIPANTS PRESENT

That is, there is no one-to-one contact.

If Rotarians bear this simple and easily understood principle in mind there is minimal chance of grooming or misbehaviour

Protection Obligations of the Club

Clubs that participate in any Youth Program or interact with youth on any basis shall:

- **Appoint a Club Protection Officer**
- **Ensure that any/all Club Rotarians or helpers taking part in a Rotary Youth Program are correctly “qualified”.**
- **Ensure Clubs who participate in the Youth Exchange Program are “Certified”**
- **Complete and return the annual Club Declaration**
- **Assign one meeting per year for information and training.**

Club Protection Officer

The requirements of the Protection Officer will vary from club to club. In Clubs which host an exchange student or have a stand-alone Club youth program, the Protection Officer will need to oversee appreciably more than in Clubs which do not. That officer must read and ensure the club adheres to the requirements as set out in the Club Youth Exchange Manual or the Short Rotary Youth Programs Manual.

It is the Protection Officer's duty in all clubs to ensure that whenever a young person involved in a Rotary program comes to the Club or a Club event, they are treated respectfully and there is adherence to all the rules that apply to them. This is whether it is a RYLA student coming to a meeting once to report on their experiences, or a youth exchange student who will be with the club for 12 months.

See Appendix 1 of D9510 Youth Protection Policy for details

Duties of Club Youth Protection Officer

1. Ensure club members particularly those involved in youth programs understand their responsibilities for protection of all participants.
2. Ensure that all people (Rotarians and others) involved in youth programs are suitable people for the tasks they are given and as such are assessed as RESPONSIBLE ADULTS.
3. Ensure that a Club wishing to run a stand-alone youth program fills in a YP8 Form and submits it to the District Protection Officer.
4. Ensure that the correct process is followed in the event that a club needs to appoint a YOUTH PROGRAM VOLUNTEER.
5. Unless the club has a separate Risk Management Officer and Insurance Officer, the Club Protection Officer shall also ensure that appropriate Risk and Insurance returns and obligations are undertaken
6. Ensure Clubs who participate in the Youth Exchange Program are "Certified"
7. Assign one meeting per year for information and training.

See Appendix 1 of D9510 Youth Protection Policy for details

Duties of District Protection Officer

RI policy requires all **Districts** have a **DPO**. **District** 9510 also requires the **District** have a **District Protection Committee** to be chaired by the **DPO**

1. The **DPO's** primary duty is the **protection of youth** and **vulnerable adults participating in Rotary programs** throughout the District. They are to achieve this by--
 - expediting/running **training** for those involved in programs for youth or vulnerable adults
 - **giving advice** when requested or needed to Rotarians involved in **youth** and **vulnerable adult** programs.
2. The **DPO receives all the applications** from **district** committees and clubs for **Rotarians and others to be classified as YOUTH PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS**
3. The **DPO** is the person to whom **all incidents of alleged or suspected incidents of abuse** or **severe harassment or bullying must be reported**, and who is responsible for investigating and followup.

What to do in the event of an allegation?

Should a Rotarian or Club receive a complaint or an allegation of abuse or harassment, they should seek guidance from the Club Protection Officer or the District Protection Officer. They should, however, **make sure in the first instance that the situation is contained and the abused person is safe.**

If you receive a report or claim of abuse or harassment it will be unexpected and perhaps a surprise. It is important to adhere to some basic principles:

1. **Listen attentively** and stay calm
2. Assure privacy but not confidentiality
3. Get information, but don't interrogate the participant
4. Be nonjudgmental and reassuring
5. Be understanding

As soon as possible, get in touch with someone who can deal with the situation (CPO, DPO, Program Director, Club President)

RESOURCES



My Rotary

Rotary.org | Club Finder



JOIN | DONATE

Exchange Ideas

Take Action

Learning & Reference

Manage

The Rotary Foundation

News & Media

Member Center

Learning Center

Take advantage of a wealth of training materials designed to help you learn new skills and become more successful in what you do.

[Visit the center](#)

[View the course catalog](#)



Preventing and Addressing Harassment

English ★★★★★

ENROLLED



Protecting Personal Data

English ★★★★★

ENROLLED



Protecting Youth Program Participants

English ★★★★★

ENROLL

- ***District 9510 Master Protection Policy.***
- ***Rotary Australia Youth Protection Policy Summary.***
- ***The RI Rotary Youth Protection Guide***
- ***Rotary District 9510 Youth Exchange Guides.***

QUESTIONS



What is “Youth”?

RI Definition

Young people up to the age of **25 years** either under or over the age of majority (the age of majority varies among Australian states and territories) who are participating in a Rotary Youth Program

Irrespective of the age of any youth involved in a Rotary Youth program, Rotary at all levels is committed to doing everything reasonably possible to protect all applicants and participants

YOUR Club and Youth

Can you think of any **events** or **occasions** or **activities** which your Club undertakes, and which involves ‘Youth’ as defined above?

What about **events** or **occasions** or **activities** which might involve vulnerable persons?

ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

What is abuse and harassment?

What is abuse?

Abuse refers to sexual interference or deliberate physical or emotional actions sufficient to cause physical or emotional injury.

What is harassment?

This can be any unwanted act or comment by another person which affects the wellbeing, health, confidence or causes embarrassment.

Recognizing abuse and harassment

There are a number of pointers to abuse and harassment, including anxiety, delinquency, depression and withdrawal.

Grooming

This is the process whereby a sexual predator through **false expressions** of love or kindness gradually introduces a young person to increasingly lurid sexual images, touching, etc. **desensitising** their victim(s) into acceptance of sexual acts

THE HEART OF PROTECTION (cont)

As a result of this fact Rotary **District** 9510 has adopted **four main strategies** to keep **youth** and **vulnerable adults** in our care safe. These four strategies are --

1. Rotary youth programs are to be designed or reorganized so that **the number of adult leaders allowed to be alone with youth and vulnerable adults for a significant period be kept to absolute minimum.**
2. only this **small number of adult leaders** will be assessed following with the criteria set out in 5.2 and, if approved, they will be classified as **YOUTH PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS.**
3. only **experienced interviewers** are engaged to interview **adult leaders** and their referees when an **adult leader** is applying to become a **YOUTH PROGRAM VOLUNTEER.** The interviewers will be assigned to their task by the **DPO.**
4. **adult leaders** and program participants in **youth** and **vulnerable adult** programs are trained to understand **youth** and **vulnerable adults are very safe in groups** and, as far as is **absolutely possible**, must **never be alone with an adult leader.**

DEFINITIONS

All Rotarians and non-Rotarians applying or nominated for a leader's position in a youth program or who are assisting the elderly or infirm must be classified as either a "Responsible Adult" or a "Youth Program Volunteer".

Only those who are in a position to abuse those they are assisting need to be a "Youth Program Volunteer".

2. Responsible Adult

A Responsible Adult is any adult/Rotarian who, in a family or group situation for a short period of time, is responsible for caring for a young person.

The adult shall be in a position to offer the young person guidance, assistance or an educational, cultural or recreational experience.

The person responsible for the youth/student (Parent/legal guardian) needs to be satisfied, in the same way a conscientious parent would be satisfied, that this adult is suitable for their own young son or daughter to stay or associate with for a short period of time when of same age in similar circumstances.

It should be noted that South Australian law requires **RESPONSIBLE ADULTS** working directly with groups of children to have a **WWCC**. They remain classified as **RESPONSIBLE ADULTS** not **YOUTH PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS** as they are working in an organised Rotary **youth** program with another adult or in a group situation and are **never alone** with a **young person** for a **significant period**. In South Australia a **WWCC** is not required for volunteers working with children for less than 7 days in total in a year

What to do in the event of an allegation?

ALLEGATION RESPONSE

The following steps must be taken immediately after alleged abuse or harassment is reported. Some of them may be performed by the person to whom the allegation has been made (Allegation Recipient), while others should be performed by a District officer, as specified. Details of such allegations must be reported to the DIO/DPO, and to Rotary International within **72 hours**.

1. Protect the young person
2. Report the allegations to appropriate authorities
3. Remove the accused person from all contact with youth
4. Avoid gossip and blame
5. Follow-Through

Sexual Abuse and Harassment Allegation Reporting Guidelines can be found in the District Master Protection Policy, Sections 10 and 11