

**Rotary**  
District 9510



**Rotary Opens  
Opportunities**

# Youth Protection



# Why is it Important ?

# Exchange students put at risk of being abused

By Leesha McKenny

21 December 2008 – 11:00am



AUSTRALIANS as young as 15 on overseas exchange programs are among thousands of students abused each year by those entrusted to support them.

There were 2000 cases of host families abusing exchange students worldwide in one 12-month period, research shows.

This included about 140 cases involving Australian students, or students hosted in Australia.

## TODAY'S TOP STORIES

### SYDNEY STADIUMS

and Department of Public Health and Community  
Medicine  
University of Sydney  
AUSTRALIA

Jillan Fleming  
National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health  
Australian National University  
Canberra  
AUSTRALIA

Michael Levy  
NSW Corrections Health Service  
Sydney  
AUSTRALIA

John Kaldor  
National Centre in HIV Epidemiology and Clinical  
Research  
University of New South Wales  
Sydney  
AUSTRALIA  
Correspondence to Dr Butler

term, health related sequelae in prisoner populations.  
As part of its strategy to determine the health status of  
New South Wales prisoners, the NSW Corrections Health  
Service and the NSW Health Department conducted an  
extensive cross sectional survey of prisoners in 1996 which  
included screening for infectious diseases and behavioural  
risk factors (including sexual behaviour).<sup>1-3</sup>  
This study describes the histories of childhood sexual  
abuse in a random sample of male and female prisoners in  
New South Wales and examines the relationship between  
childhood sexual abuse and a range of long term mental  
health outcome measures and behavioural risk factors.

#### Methods

##### Study population and data collection

In 1996, inmates at 27 New South Wales correctional centres  
(24 men's and three women's) participated in the health  
survey. The methods have been described in detail  
elsewhere.<sup>1-3</sup> A random sample stratified by sex, age, and  
Aboriginality was chosen from the inmate population,  
representing approximately 11 per cent of full time male

In 2016, Dickson stood trial accused of abusing multiple girls while  
Prosecutors said his crimes were worse than those of Mark Christ  
They alleged he was "a child molester hiding in plain sight", and h  
surrounded by children. Dickson was found guilty of just one offer  
Yesterday, he pleaded not guilty to one aggravated count of indec  
OSHC facility.  
Ms Sampson said the victim was not enrolled at the facility but would often wait  
The trial, before Judge Steven Milstead, continues.

Investigation branch detectives arrested a 22-year-old man from the northern suburbs on Wednesday. Sexual abuse uncovered in Rotary exchange student programmes

He was aggravated child to corrupt act. Police said under 14 will occurred. A department confirmed the at a northern the time of h He has without pay been notified He was b Elizabeth A next month.

PM - Tuesday, 19 August, 2003 18:18:00  
Reporter: Toni Hassan

MARK COLVIN: We've heard many damaging revelations of sexual abuse in mainstream churches

An Australian woman has accused the volunteer charity, Rotary, of failing to investigate or adequately

The case goes back to 1967 when the woman was an exchange student in Oklahoma in the United States while in Rotary's care.

Her alleged attacker has denied the charge to PM. Rotary International says it has improved its procedures, and she's been frustrated by the charity's reluctance to address them.

Toni Hassan prepared our special report:

GABY: He was married with children. He was an extravert, I guess you'd call him, very charming

TONI HASSAN: The woman, who we're calling 'Gaby,' to protect her real identity, says the alleged

GABY: He would take it a step at a time to see how far he'd get with me and then say to me 'do

TONI HASSAN: It went on for months did it?

GABY: Oh yes. In his car, in his boat, in his aeroplane - using his fingers, and the rest, which I t

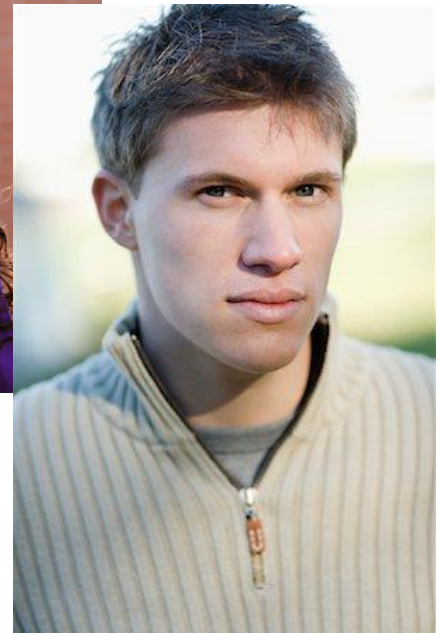
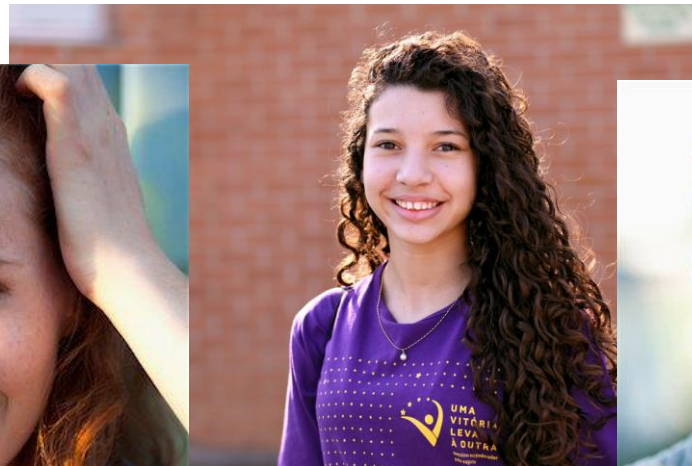
TONI HASSAN: And it took a long time for you to be able to speak about this?

# What is “Youth”

## RI Definition

Young people involved in a **Rotary Youth program** up the age of **25 years** either under or over the age of majority (the age of majority varies among Australian states and territories).

Irrespective of the age of any youth, Rotary at all levels is committed to doing everything reasonably possible to protect all applicants and participants.



# ROTARY YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDE

*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.*

# CHARACTERISTICS OF ABUSE AND HARASSMENT

**The vast majority of allegations of abuse or harassment go **unreported**:**

**Young people tend to minimize and deny abuse, not exaggerate or over-report incidents.**

**They might not tell anyone about an assault because they are convinced that they're to blame or they fear the potential consequences.**

**Males are less likely to report abuse because of self-blame, social stigma, or fears that they will not be believed or will be seen to have a particular sexual orientation.**

**In some cases, youth wait to report abuse until they are adults.**

**Few child abusers are identified and prosecuted.**

# Sexual Abuse

- **Sexual abuse** refers to engaging in sexual acts with a vulnerable person or forcing or encouraging a vulnerable person to engage in sexual acts alone or with another person of any age, of the same sex or the opposite sex.
- **Additional examples of sexual abuse could include, but are not limited to:**
  - non-touching offences
  - indecent exposure
  - exposing a child to sexual or pornographic material



# Sexual harassment ?

Sexual harassment refers to **sexual advances**, requests for **sexual favours** or **verbal or physical conduct** of a **sexual nature**.

In some cases, sexual harassment precedes sexual abuse, and is a technique used by sexual predators to desensitise or groom their victims.

## Is it abuse or is it harassment?

Whether the alleged conduct amounts to sexual abuse or sexual harassment is not to be determined by the adult to whom allegations are made.

After ensuring the safety of the vulnerable person, all allegations must be immediately reported as required by law in Australia to the police.





# Grooming

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



# Signs of Abuse or Harassment

**Physical changes:** Repeated pattern of injury or an accident for which the explanation does not make sense

**Anxiety:** Reports of high levels of anxiety; obsessive compulsive patterns; fear of certain places, people, or activities; reluctance to be alone with a particular person; nightmares or other sleep problems

**Changes in eating habits or body image:** Distorted body image, including or resulting in eating disorders

**Depression:** Excessive crying, extreme mood swings, diminished self-esteem, self-mutilation, and suicidal gestures or attempts

**Delinquency:** Criminal behavior, conflict with authority, running away, academic problems, and drug or alcohol abuse

**Withdrawal:** Difficulties at school, unwillingness to participate in extracurricular activities, repression, poor peer relationships, or isolation

**Aggression:** Overly hostile behavior or language directed toward peers, adults, or pets

**Age-inappropriate behavior:** Sexual promiscuity or graphic knowledge of sex or sexual behavior

# Do we have the right people?

# D9510 Youth Protection Policy

## DISTRICT 9510

### Table of Contents



## YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY



TOPIC	PAGE
1 Introduction	3
2 Definitions	4
3 Purpose	6
4 Scope	6
5 Guiding Principles	6
6 General District and Club Responsibilities	7
7 Screening and Suitability Checks	7
(1.) Youth Program Volunteer	7
(2.) Procedures for becoming a Youth Program Volunteer	8
(3.) Responsible Adult	8
8 Driving Youth Program Participants	10
9 Rotary Assisting Another Organisation	10
10 Reporting Abuse	10
11 Risk Management	10
12 Rotary Youth Exchange – Unique Risks	11
13 Short Rotary Youth Programs	11
14 Club Youth Protection Officers	11
15 The District Protection Committee	11
16 Abuse in Young People and Recognising it	12
17 Reporting Abuse	12
(1.) Important Principles	12
(2.) Additional Government Requirements	13
(3.) Specific Requirements for Participants under 18 Years (children)	13
18 Communication	13
19 Images of Young People	14
20 Records	15
21 Privacy and Confidentiality	15
Appendix 1 – Club Youth Protection Officer Duties	16
Appendix 2 – Duties of the District 9510 Protection Committee	21
Appendix 3 – Allegation Reporting Guidelines	21
Appendix 4 – Important Facts – Youth Worker Assessments	24
Appendix 5 – Rotary Youth Volunteer Information & Declaration Form	25
Appendix 6 – Frequently Asked Questions	26

## DEFINITIONS

**All Rotarians and non-Rotarians applying or nominating to assist in a youth program must be classified as either a**

**“Responsible Adult”**

**or**

**“Youth Program Volunteer”**

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

# 1. Responsible Adult

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

This adult will **not** necessarily be required to have a Working with Children check or be formally reference checked because the experience or contact is such that there is virtually **no opportunity** for misconduct to occur.

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.

Wherever possible, it should be planned to have **two or more** Responsible Adults together with a young person at any one time or more than one young person present.

The majority of Club members would be deemed “Responsible Adults” but WWCC is desirable

## Child Safety Act 2016

The Working with Children Check is **free** if you meet the definition of a volunteer: *A person who willingly gives their time for the common good without financial gain*

A volunteer Working with Children Check can only be used for volunteering

A check is needed if the person works with children for more than 7 days in a year, or the child-related work involves an overnight excursion or activity (e.g. school camp), or close personal contact with children with disability. *Child Safety Act 2016*

# Working with Children Check (WWCC)

Government of South Australia  
Department of Human Services

<https://screening.sa.gov.au/applications>

Screening Unit

DHS Screening Unit services continue to operate as usual during COVID-19 response.

Home | About checks | Types of check | **Applications** | Fees and payments | Contact us | 🔍

Applications

- Application information for individuals >
- Application information for organisations >
- Application status, update information and verify check >

Screening Unit | Applications | *Application information for individuals*

## Submit your own application for a check

Individuals can apply for their own check.

### Before you start

Once you begin your application you will receive an email from iApply Account Security.

The email will be called: *Setup your iApply account at forms.sa.gov.au.*

This email will tell you to change your password. You can then begin your application.

### To complete your application you will need

- information about your full legal name and any names you may have, including previous names, maiden name, names you have legally changed, nicknames)
- your current address and 10 years' of address history
- If you are verifying your identity online (100-point check), you will need an Australian driver's licence or permit, plus one of these:
  - Australian birth certificate or extract
  - Australian citizenship certificate
  - Australian passport.

**Apply for a check**



# Working With Children Check

## Situations where WWCC is **required**

More than 7 days in a year working with Youth (Child Safety Act)

Youth Protection Officer

Youth Programs Chair

Youth Committee Member

Working in Youth Program

**Youth Program Volunteer\***

## 2. Youth Program Volunteer

Those participants with the following roles are defined as needing screening to become Youth Program Volunteers. Such situations include any adult volunteer:

**driving** a young person alone in a private vehicle for a period of time that might allow grooming or abuse to occur. (See 8 (2) for more specific guidance.)

who supervises young people in **overnight accommodation** in a youth program where they may be alone with a young person for a period of time that may allow grooming or abuse to occur (i.e. home billeting or accommodation in youth programs (e.g. RYLA, Youth Exchange etc.).

who is the **Chair of a District Youth Committee** or a **stand-alone** club program, even though they may not have direct contact alone with young people (RI requirement).

who is responsible for **storing documents** which contain young people's personal information such as medical records, even though they may not have direct contact alone with young people, are to be assessed as a Youth Program Volunteer. (Required by most State and Territory governments).

# Youth Program Volunteer Information and Declaration

## An example of the Rotary Youth Volunteer Information and Declaration form:

Page 1 of 3

(Replacing CL 4 & YP 7)

### Rotary Youth & Vulnerable Persons Volunteer Information and Declaration Form

In order to better assess the suitability of an applicant to be a Rotary Registered Volunteer, working with children, young people, the aged and the infirm, District 9520 requires applicants to provide the following information about themselves.

#### PERSONAL DETAILS

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town or Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you lived at the above address? \_\_\_\_\_ years

(If less than 5 years, please list prior addresses for that period on the back of this sheet.)

Are you a Rotarian? \_\_\_\_\_ If so state name of Club \_\_\_\_\_

Year joined \_\_\_\_\_

What will your role be?

District Youth Committee Member/Chair

Club Counsellor

Member of a host Family

RYPEN/RILA Director

Other please detail \_\_\_\_\_

#### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

*Please detail your employment history as follows. (If you have not been employed in the organisation below for the last five years, please detail when you left and give the same details of the other organisations where you worked since then on the back of this form.)*

Your occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Do you currently or have you during the last five years worked for a company or organisation

Are you self-employed

Are you retired

Name of the organisation you worked for \_\_\_\_\_

Name of immediate supervisor-manager \_\_\_\_\_

#### PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

If you have previously worked with children, youth, the aged or the infirm, please detail your involvement and any training you have received.

#### PERSONAL REFERENCES

*Please list three referees and if applicable include your employer and/or the director of an organisation who is involved with either children, young people, the aged or the infirm, and who is in a position to vouch for your suitability as a Rotary Registered Volunteer. (Only one referee may be a Rotarian and none may be family members. All need to be contacted by you to confirm they will be happy to be phoned by Rotary for a reference. If a referee has a preferred phone number, please mark it with an asterisk.)*

1 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

2 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

3 Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

#### PERSONAL HISTORY CHECK

- It is a requirement all Rotary Registered Volunteers have a Personal History check.
  - South Australian applicants must agree to Rotary's commencing the procedure for obtaining the applicant a DCSI check
  - New South Wales and Victorian applicants must apply for and obtain a "Working with Children Check" (NSW) or a "Working with Children Card" (Vic)
  - Equivalent checks must be obtained for those working with the aged or the infirm
  - The applicant must agree to show the designated responsible Rotarian their Personal History Check.

Type of Check ..... Check No ..... Expiry Date (3 years after issue) ...../...../.....

- Have you ever been charged with, been convicted of or pled guilty to any crimes  
Yes  No
- Have you ever been subject to any court order (including civil, family, and criminal courts) involving sexual, physical, or verbal abuse, including but not limited to a domestic violence or civil harassment injunction or protection order?  
Yes  No

If yes, please explain. Also indicate date(s) of incident(s) and the state and country in which they occurred. (Attach separate sheet)

#### DECLARATION

- I give my full permission for any of the people I have listed on this form to be contacted by an authorised Rotary Officer to confirm my suitability as a Rotary Registered Volunteer recognising such enquiries are in the best interest of the program in which I will be involved.
- I certify I have contacted my referees and all are happy for Rotary to contact them.
- I confirm I am willing to undergo a comprehensive interview by a responsible Rotary officer
- I agree to abide unreservedly by the decision of the Rotary Club or the District Committee reviewing my application as to my suitability as a Registered Volunteer.

# Youth Program Volunteer - Screening

- *A Declaration made by Volunteers declaring themselves to be a fit and proper person, to work with young people.*
- *Supported by referees and agree to Rotary International requirements & guidelines.*
  - Interview applicant
  - Contact 3 Referees (only one may be a Rotarian and none shall be family members)
  - WWCC
  - Send to District Youth Protection Officer

These are valid for **five years** (consistent with the timing for Working With Children Check expiry in SA, Vic, NSW; however for NT, it will only be valid for two years)

being  
responsible

# Club Insurance & Compliance Declaration – 30<sup>th</sup> March

## IMPORTANCE HIGH

Please return to District Insurance & Protection Officer by the date required.

Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_

### Section 2: Protection

Yes No

	Yes	No
1 Is your club involved in any Youth Programs i.e. YEP, RYLA, RYPEN etc (If no please go to Question 3)	Y	N
2 • Does your club comply with RI's Youth Protection & Certification Requirements?	Y	N
• Does your club maintain a register of Volunteer Declarations?	Y	N
• Have copies of all Volunteer Declarations been provided to the District Officer for document retention purposes?	Y	N
3 Has your club ever received a complaint /allegation of sexual abuse or harassment?	Y	N
4 Is your club familiar with District Risk Management Policy & Guidelines for Youth Programs?	Y	N
5 Is your club familiar with the R.I. sexual abuse/harassment allegation reporting Guidelines?	Y	N
6 Has your club received Youth Protection procedures training?	Y	N
7 Would your club like an update in procedures as a meeting program?	Y	N

Completed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Club Youth Protection Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Club Youth Protection Officer

## Clubs that participate in any Youth Program shall:

- **Appoint a Youth Protection Officer – arms length**
- **Ensure all Volunteers (as defined) are screened**
- **Provide copies of all Volunteer Declarations to District Youth Protection Officer for document retention purposes**
- **Complete and return the annual Club Declaration**
- **Ensure Clubs who participate in the YEP are “Certified”**
- **Assign one meeting per year for information and training.**

**District Requires WWCC even though not dealing directly with Youth**

## What to do in the event of an allegation?

Should a Rotarian or Club receive a complaint or an allegation of abuse or harassment, the specific Rotary International guidelines must be followed.

***Sexual Abuse and Harassment Allegation Reporting Guidelines*** can be found in the D9510 Policy

Details of such allegations must be reported to the DIO/DYPO, and to Rotary International within **72 hours**.

# What is Mandatory Reporting?

- State or Territory Governments in the areas in which District 9510 operates have certain legislated **Mandatory Reporting Requirements** which imposes obligation upon volunteers of Youth Programs with participants **under 18 years** of age to report cases of **suspected** child abuse and neglect.

Mandatory reporting legislation generally contains lists of particular occupations, mandated to report cases of suspected child abuse and neglect including **volunteers = Mandatory Reporter**



# REASONABLE SUSPICION

A suspicion is a state of mind.

A mandatory reporter should consider the following:

- Was the information obtained **in the course** of his or her employment/volunteering.
- On the information available, does the reporter have a **suspicion** that something might happen or might have happened?
- Is it reasonable to rely upon the information which causes him or her to have the suspicion?

The mandated reporter must form the **reasonable suspicion alone**.

# REPORTING REASONABLE SUSPICION

Child Abuse Report Line (CARL) 13 14 78 (South Australia)

Child Protection Emergency Service: 13 12 78 (Victoria)

Child Protection Helpline on 132 111 (NSW)

Child Abuse Hotline on 1800 700 250 (NT)

Some States or Territories will issue fines to people for failing to report reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect of a young person under 18 (child).

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

# QUESTIONS

