

Fact Sheet: Introduction to Girl Guiding in Australia - a Child Safe Child Friendly Community

About this document

This document is provided as an introduction to the Girl Guides Australia (GGA) **Child Safe Child Friendly (CSCF) Policy** and its associated Procedures and Guidance Notes for the – CSCF Elements 1 – 10. These Procedures contribute to Girl Guiding in Australia (GGiA) being a Child Safe Child Friendly community. This Fact Sheet provides basic and introductory information about GGiA and the GGA CSCF Policy.

For definitions and abbreviations please refer to the *GGA CSCF Definitions and Abbreviations* document.

Background

GGA and its member State Girl Guide Organisations (SGGOs) are committed to continuing to be Child Safe Child Friendly organisations.

The Girl Guides Australia CSCF Policy is arranged into 10 Elements:

1. Girl Guiding is Girl-Led
2. Becoming a Girl Guide
3. Recruitment and Screening of Volunteers
4. Supervision and Training of Volunteers
5. Recruitment and Screening of Employees
6. Supervision and Training of Employees
7. Health and Safety
8. Responding to Abuse and Neglect
9. Responding to Feedback, Concerns and Complaints
10. Girl Guiding in Practise.

In addition, the following support, compliment and should be read in conjunction with the Girl Guides Australia CSCF Policy:

1. GGA Code of Conduct
2. GGA Strategy
3. GGA Governance Framework
4. GGA People and Performance Management Policy
5. GGA Diversity and Inclusion Policy
6. GGA Risk Management Framework

In accordance with the GGA CSCF Policy, GGiA expects all Adults in Guiding to be proactive in providing and supporting GGiA to be Child Safe Child Friendly. Fundamental to this is the strict adherence to the GGA Code of Conduct and all policies and procedures.

1. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)

WAGGGS is the largest voluntary movement dedicated to girls and young women in the world and represents over ten million girls and young women from more than 150 countries across the five WAGGGS Regions: Africa, Asia Pacific, Europe, Western Hemisphere, and the Arab Region.

2. Girl Guides Australia (GGA)

GGA is the National Member Organisation of WAGGGS for GGIA.

GGA is led by the Chief Commissioner, governed by a Board of Directors and administratively managed by the GGA Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Chief Commissioner, the Chair of GGA and the CEO work as a collaborative leadership team.

The Mission of Girl Guides Australia is: empowering girls and young women to discover their potential as leaders of their world.

3. State Girl Guide Organisations (SGGOs)

SGGOs are Member Organisations of GGA and are responsible for program delivery to Girl Guides in each Australian state and territory.

All SGGOs are led by a State Commissioner, offer a range of programs and activities provided by trained volunteer Leaders and Managers, are supported administratively by a Chief Executive Officer (or equivalent executive officer), and are governed by a Board of Directors (or equivalent executive body).

4. Girl Guiding in Australia (GGIA)

GGIA is the term used to reference GGA and/or one or more SGGOs working together and where appropriate in the context, includes the collaborative operations of GGA and SGGOs in a manner that facilitates the consistent provision of Girl Guiding throughout Australia.

5. Belonging to Girl Guiding within Australia

GGIA comprises many thousands of Australian girls and women from a diverse range of backgrounds, interests, roles and responsibilities.

The girls and women of the Girl Guide movement can be:

- **Youth Members** - a Girl Guide who is under 18 years of age
- **Adult Members** - a Girl Guide who is 18 years of age or over, and who usually has an unpaid (volunteer) role
- **Volunteers** - a person (usually an adult) with an unpaid role
- **Employees** - a person with a paid role.

The above categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, an Adult Member may also be an Employee. All Adult Members are Volunteers for the purposes of the GGA CSCF Policy. Volunteers may be either Ongoing Volunteers or Casual Volunteers.

6. Obligations of Belonging to GGiA

Regardless of whether a person is a Youth Member, Adult Member, Volunteer, or Employee, everyone who is involved in any way with GGiA is a representative of GGiA, and WAGGGS, and their behaviour must be reflective of the values and expectations embedded in the Girl Guide Promise, Guide Law and GGA Code of Conduct.

Everyone involved in any way with GGiA must always remember that GGiA's long-standing reputation and effectiveness as Australia's primary organisation for girls and young women in leadership is dependent upon the behaviours and attitudes of the people who comprise the Girl Guiding movement.

The reputation and effectiveness of GGiA is also dependent on everyone's understanding of, and adherence to, all formal GGA principles, policies and procedures, including, in particular:

- The Girl Guide Promise
- The Guide Law
- The GGA Code of Conduct
- The Child Safe Child Friendly Policy
- The Girl Guide and Girl Scout Education Method (see paragraph below)

7. The Girl Guide Promise

Fundamental to being a member is the Girl Guide Promise:

*I promise that I will do my best
To be true to myself and develop my beliefs
To serve my community and Australia
And live by the Guide Law.*

The Promise sets a standard for all Guides to live by and embodies the overarching principles of Girl Guiding. Even though only Guides make the Promise, everyone involved in any way with GGiA is required to always act in accordance with the spirit of the Girl Guide Promise.

8. The Guide Law

Also fundamental to being a member is the Guide Law:

*As a Guide I will strive to:
Respect myself and others
Be considerate, honest and trustworthy
Be friendly to others
Make choices for a better world*

Use my time and abilities wisely

Be thoughtful and optimistic

Live with courage and strength.

Even though only members are obliged to follow the Guide Law, everyone involved in any way with GGiA is required to act in accordance with the spirit of the Guide Law.

9. The GGA Code of Conduct

The GGA Code of Conduct provides the standards and behaviours expected and required by all people who are involved in any way with GGiA.

A copy of the Code of Conduct can be found [here](#).

10. Guide Lines for Girl Guides

[Guide Lines](#) is an online collection of all GGA policies and procedures.

Everyone who is involved in any way with GGiA is required to act in accordance with the policies and procedures outlined in *Guide Lines*.

11. The Girl Guide and Girl Scout Educational Method

The Girl Guide and Girl Scout Educational Method (the Girl Guide Method) is a model designed by WAGGGS to support the learning, development and empowerment of youth.

The Girl Guide Method has five essential elements:

- Learning in small groups
- Learning at the pace, and through the pathway determined by the girl
- Learning by doing
- Connecting with others
- Connecting with the world

The Girl Guide Method is fundamental to the delivery of the Australian Guide Program by Adult Members. Adult Members are trained in accordance with the Australian Leadership and Qualification Program (ALQP) to deliver the Australian Guide Program using the Girl Guide Method.

More information about the Girl Guide Method can be found [here](#).

Further resources

[Girl Guides Australia](#)

[GGA Child Safe Child Friendly Policy](#)

[GGA Code of Conduct](#)

[The Girl Guide Method](#)

[World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts](#)