

# ADELAIDE SRI LANKA BUDDHIST VIHARA INCORPORATED

8 James St, Crafers SA 5152

Reg. No. A0023008K – ABN 89949193552

Tel/Fax (08) 83393649

Website : [www.adelaidebuddhistvihara.org.au](http://www.adelaidebuddhistvihara.org.au)

Email : [info@asbvihara.com](mailto:info@asbvihara.com)

## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Adelaide Srilanka Buddhist Vihara Inc (ASBV) is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children and has a zero tolerance for child abuse.

Everyone working at ASBV Inc is responsible for the care and protection of children and reporting information about child abuse.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is

1. To facilitate the prevention of child abuse occurring within and operations involving ASBV.
2. To work towards an organisational culture of child safety.
3. To ensure that all stakeholders of ASBV are aware of their responsibilities for identifying possible occasions for child abuse and for establishing controls and procedures for preventing such abuse and/or detecting such abuse when it occurs.
4. To provide guidance to stakeholders as to actions that should be taken where they suspect any abuse within or outside of the organisation.
5. To provide a clear statement to stakeholders forbidding any such abuse.
6. To provide assurance that any and all suspected abuse will be reported and fully investigated under the Australian laws.

### POLICY

#### 1. Definitions

**Child:** means a person below the age of 18 years unless, under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

**Child protection:** means any responsibility, measure or activity undertaken to safeguard children from harm.

**Child abuse:** means all forms of physical abuse, emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse and exploitation, neglect or negligent treatment, commercial (e.g. for financial gain) or other exploitation of a child and includes any actions that results in actual or potential harm to a child.

**Child abuse:** means all forms of physical abuse, emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse and exploitation, neglect or negligent treatment, commercial (e.g. for financial gain) or other

**DISCLAIMER:** While all care has been taken in the preparation of this policy, no responsibility is accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misstatements.

This policy has been prepared to provide general information and guidance only. It is not intended to be relied upon or be a substitute for legal or other professional advice. No responsibility can be accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any known or unknown consequences that may result from reliance on this policy.

exploitation of a child and includes any actions that results in actual or potential harm to a child.

**Child sexual assault:** is any act which exposes a child to, or involves a child in, sexual processes beyond his or her understanding or contrary to accepted community standards. Sexually abusive behaviours can include the fondling of genitals, masturbation, oral sex, vaginal or anal penetration by a penis, finger or any other object, fondling of breasts, voyeurism, exhibitionism, and exposing the child to or involving the child in pornography. It includes child grooming, which refers to actions deliberately undertaken with the aim of befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a child to lower the child's inhibitions in preparation for sexual activity with the child.

**Reasonable grounds for belief:** is a belief based on reasonable grounds (see below) that child abuse has occurred when all known considerations or facts relevant to the formation of a belief are taken into account and these are objectively assessed. Circumstances or considerations may include the source of the allegation and how it was communicated, the nature of and details of the allegation, and whether there are any other related matters known regarding the alleged perpetrator.

A reasonable belief is formed if a reasonable person believes that:

- (a) the child is in need of protection,
- (b) the child has suffered or is likely to suffer "significant harm as a result of physical injury," or
- (c) the parents are unable or unwilling to protect the child.

A 'reasonable belief' or a 'belief on reasonable grounds' is not the same as having proof, but is more than mere rumour or speculation.

A 'reasonable belief' is formed if a reasonable person in the same position would have formed the belief on the same grounds. For example, a 'reasonable belief' might be formed if:

- a) a child states that they have been physically or sexually abused;
- b) a child states that they know someone who has been physically or sexually abused (sometimes the child may be talking about themselves);
- c) someone who knows a child states that the child has been physically or sexually abused;
- d) professional observations of the child's behaviour or development leads a professional to form a belief that the child has been physically or sexually abused or is likely to be abused; and/or
- e) signs of abuse lead to a belief that the child has been physically or sexually abused.

**Management committee:** means the management committee of the ASBV appointed at the annual general meeting.

**DISCLAIMER:** While all care has been taken in the preparation of this policy, no responsibility is accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misstatements.

This policy has been prepared to provide general information and guidance only. It is not intended to be relied upon or be a substitute for legal or other professional advice. No responsibility can be accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any known or unknown consequences that may result from reliance on this policy.

**Management:** means the members of the management committee who manage or supervise funds or other resources, including volunteers and contractors.

**Volunteers:** are people who hold a volunteer agreement with ASBV.

**Member :** is a natural person over 18 years of age, who is a follower of Buddhism and has become a member of the ASBV on payment of the membership fee.

**Committee Member:** means a member of the management committee appointed at the annual general meeting of the ASBV.

**Stakeholders:** include Chief Incumbent of the ASBV, members of the management committee, members, volunteers, donors, contractors, suppliers and other organisations/individuals who are in partnership with ASBV and working towards achieving the objectives of the ASBV.

## **2. Policy Principles**

- ASBV is committed to promoting and protecting the best interests of children involved in its programs.
- All children, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, or family or social background, have equal rights to protection from abuse.
- ASBV has zero tolerance for child abuse. Everyone working at ASBV is responsible for the care and protection of the children within our care and reporting information about suspected child abuse.
- Child protection is a shared responsibility of stakeholders of ASBV.
- ASBV will consider the opinions of children and use their opinions to develop/review child protection policy and procedures.
- ASBV supports and respects all children. ASBV is committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children living with a disability.
- If any person believes a child is in immediate risk of abuse, should telephone 000.

## **3. Related Policies/Documents**

- Child Protection Procedure

## **4. Reference Documents**

- Constitution of the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Inc

## **AUTHORISATION**

President

Adelaide Srilanka Buddhist Vihara Inc

Dated : DD/MM/YYYY

**DISCLAIMER:** While all care has been taken in the preparation of this policy, no responsibility is accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misstatements.

This policy has been prepared to provide general information and guidance only. It is not intended to be relied upon or be a substitute for legal or other professional advice. No responsibility can be accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any known or unknown consequences that may result from reliance on this policy.

# ADELAIDE SRI LANKA BUDDHIST VIHARA INCORPORATED

8 James St, Crafers SA 5152

Reg. No. A0023008K – ABN 89949193552

Tel/Fax (08) 83393649

Website : [www.adelaidebuddhistvihara.org.au](http://www.adelaidebuddhistvihara.org.au)

Email : [info@asbvihara.com](mailto:info@asbvihara.com)

## CHILD PROTECTION PROCEDURES

### RESPONSIBILITIES

The management committee of Adelaide Srilanka Buddhist Vihara Inc (ASBV) has ultimate responsibility for the detection and prevention of child abuse and is responsible for ensuring that appropriate and effective internal control systems are in place. The management committee is also responsible for ensuring that appropriate policies and procedures and a Child Protection Code of Conduct are in place.

The President of Adelaide Srilanka Buddhist Vihara Inc is responsible for:

- Dealing with and investigating reports of child abuse;
- Ensuring that all stakeholders are aware of relevant laws, organisational policies and procedures; and
- Ensuring that all contractors and volunteers are aware of their obligation to report suspected sexual abuse of a child in accordance with these policies and procedures.

All management committee members must ensure that they:

- Promote child safety at all times;
- Assess the risk of child abuse within their area of control and eradicate or minimise any risk to the extent possible;
- Educate volunteers about the prevention and detection of child abuse; and
- Facilitate the reporting of any inappropriate behavior or suspected abusive activities.

Management committee should be familiar with the types of abuse that might occur within their area of responsibility and be alert for any indications of such conduct.

All stakeholders share the responsibility for the prevention and detection of child abuse, and must:

- Familiarise themselves with the relevant laws, policy and procedures in relation to child protection, and comply with all requirements; and
- Provide an environment that is supportive of all children's emotional and physical safety.

### EMPLOYMENT OF NEW PERSONNEL

ASBV does not have any staff and is run by the volunteer committee of management.

### RISK MANAGEMENT

ASBV will ensure that child safety is a part of its overall risk management approach.

**DISCLAIMER:** While all care has been taken in the preparation of this policy, no responsibility is accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misstatements.

This policy has been prepared to provide general information and guidance only. It is not intended to be relied upon or be a substitute for legal or other professional advice. No responsibility can be accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any known or unknown consequences that may result from reliance on this policy.

## **REPORTING**

Any stakeholder who has grounds to suspect abusive activity must immediately notify the appropriate child protection service or the police. They should also advise the President of ASBV about their concerns.

In situations where someone is suspected of involvement in the activity, or if the person having the suspicion does not believe that the matter is being appropriately addressed or dealt with, the matter should be reported to the Chief Incumbent of the ASBV.

## **INVESTIGATING**

If the appropriate child protection service or the police decide to investigate a report, all relevant stakeholders must co-operate fully with the investigation.

Whether or not the authorities decide to conduct an investigation, the President of the ASBV will consult with the authorities to determine whether an internal investigation is appropriate. If it is decided that such an investigation will not conflict with any proceeding of the authorities, the President may decide to conduct such an investigation. All relevant stakeholders must co-operate fully with the investigation.

Any such investigation will be conducted according to the rules of natural justice.

The President will make every effort to keep any such investigation confidential; however, from time to time other members may need to be consulted in conjunction with the investigation.

After an initial review and a determination that the suspected abuse warrants additional investigation, the President shall coordinate the investigation with the appropriate investigators and/or law enforcement officials. Internal or external legal representatives will be involved in the process, as deemed appropriate.

## **RESPONDING**

If it is alleged that a contractor or a volunteer may have committed an offence or have breached the organisation's policies the person concerned may be suspended from any association with ASBV while an investigation is conducted.

If the investigation concludes that on the balance of probabilities an offence (or a breach of the organisation's policies) has occurred then disciplinary action may follow, up to and including dismissal or cessation of involvement with the organisation. The findings of the investigation will also be reported to any external body as required.

## **PRIVACY**

All personal information considered or recorded will respect the privacy of the individuals involved unless there is a risk to someone's safety. ASBV will have safeguards and practices in place to ensure any /personal information is protected.

**DISCLAIMER:** While all care has been taken in the preparation of this policy, no responsibility is accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misstatements.

This policy has been prepared to provide general information and guidance only. It is not intended to be relied upon or be a substitute for legal or other professional advice. No responsibility can be accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any known or unknown consequences that may result from reliance on this policy.

Everyone is entitled to know how the personal information is recorded, what will be done with it, and who will be able to access it.

## **REVIEWING**

Every two years, and following every reportable incident, a review shall be conducted to assess whether the ASBV's child protection policies or procedures require modification to better protect the children under the ASBV's care.

This procedure must be read in conjunction with the law of the Commonwealth of Australia or of the State of South Australia.

## **AUTHORISATION**

President  
Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Inc

Dated : 15/09/2022

**DISCLAIMER:** While all care has been taken in the preparation of this policy, no responsibility is accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any errors, omissions, inaccuracies or misstatements.

This policy has been prepared to provide general information and guidance only. It is not intended to be relied upon or be a substitute for legal or other professional advice. No responsibility can be accepted by the Adelaide Sri Lanka Buddhist Vihara Incorporated for any known or unknown consequences that may result from reliance on this policy.