

Southern Tasmanian Dance Eisteddfod

A Child and Youth Safe Organisation

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1 Purpose

- This Procedure applies to the Southern Tasmanian Dance Eisteddfod Committee (STDE) volunteers and contractors and outlines the STDE's approach to being a child safe organisation, placing the rights of children and young people at the centre of its thoughts, values, and actions.

2 Policy Statement

The STDE pays respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal People as the traditional and original owners and continuing custodians of lutrawita/Tasmania and acknowledges that Aboriginal children and young people have a right to grow up in a safe and nurturing environment with connections to community, culture, and identity.

For children and young people to be safe in our community, they need to be safe in our organisations. Every child and young person has a right to be safe, and children and young people's safety is everyone's responsibility.

The STDE is committed to compliance with the requirements of Tasmania's *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework* and the 10 standards designed to create a cultural foundation within organisations.

The STDE supports the requirements of the Reportable Conduct Scheme where concerns are raised about conduct.

3 Standards

The STDE recognises that the Universal Principle applies to all ten standards and means the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people to Cultural Safety must be respected. Cultural Safety is the recognition and respect of the unique cultural identity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

1. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance, and culture.
All people in the organisation care about children and young people's safety and wellbeing above everything else, and make sure they act that way and lead others to act that way.
2. Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them are taken seriously.
Children and young people are told about their human rights, have a say in decisions and are taken seriously.
3. Families, carer's and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
Families, carer's and communities know about and are involved in the organisation's child safety and wellbeing activities.
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

The rights of every child and young person are being met, and children and young people are treated with dignity, respect and fairness.

5. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

People working with children and young people are safe to work with them and are respectful of them. They are taught how to keep children safe and well.

6. Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.

Children, young people, families, carer's, staff and volunteers are listened to and can share problems and concerns.

7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

Staff and volunteers keep learning all the time so they know how to keep children and young people safe and well.

8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

Children and young people are safe in online and physical spaces.

9. Implementation of the Child and Youth Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

The organisation keeps reviewing and improving its child safety and wellbeing practices.

10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

The organisation writes down how it keeps children and young people safe and well and makes sure that everyone can see these documents.

4 Procedures to ensure compliance with the standards.

To comply with the requirements of the standards the STDE will:

- Ensure all office bearers, committee members and volunteers are aware of Tasmania's Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework, the ten standards contained within and the reportable conduct scheme.
- Ensure all office bearers, committee members and volunteers hold a current Registration to work with Vulnerable People and that the registration and photo identification are always worn during events held by the STDE.
- Ensure that all teachers, teacher assistants and assistants that work with dance schools that participate in the STDE hold a current Registration to Work with Vulnerable People and that the registration and photo identification are always visible and worn during events held by the STDE including daily compliance checks as well as a check by Tasmania Police during the event.
- Ensure that contractors engaged as adjudicators, photographers, video operators, ticket sellers, ushers, hold a current RWVP (or equivalent interstate registration) and workers employed through the venue operator satisfy similar employment checks.
- Ensure that, in conjunction with the venue operators, we provide a safe environment for children and young people to participate to their full potential. This includes regular

announcements, advertising, and monitoring during the event to ensure compliance with the rules relating to unauthorised photography and filming of children and young people.

- Induction processes include reference to and ensure understanding of the requirements associated with providing a child safe environment including recognising any concerning behaviours and having a clear pathway for reporting such concerns.
- Recommend all office bearers, committee members, volunteers and contractors completed the *Safeguarding Children Training* including an understanding of support and referral services.
- Ensure all office bearers, committee members and contractors are aware of the mechanisms and support services available if a report of concerning behaviour towards a child or young person is received during the course of or arising from an incident at an event conducted by the STDE.
- All communication and advertising channels used by the STDE will regularly advise that *unauthorised photography and/or filming of children and young people during the STDE event is strictly prohibited. A breach of this will result in:
 1. Disqualification of the child, young person or group being filmed;
 2. Removal of the person who is filming or taking the photo;
 3. Possible reporting through the Reportable Conduct Scheme or other applicable reporting avenues.

5 Definitions

A child or young person is anyone under the age of 18 years of age.

A 'worker' is a paid employee or contractor and/or a volunteer.

Photos and videos taken during the event by contractors engaged specifically for this purpose are not considered *unauthorised.

6 Supporting information/tools

Office of Safeguarding Children and Young People

Strong Families Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line

Tellsomeone.tas.gov.au

7 Legislation

The Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023

Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Regulations 2014

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