

Guidelines for Child Protection

Adopted by the National Council, October 2004

RSCM Australia is committed to the principle that all people who participate in church music activities should be able to do so in safety and without compromising their physical or emotional wellbeing.

For the protection of both leaders and young people, the following principles should apply in all activities organised under the auspices of RSCM Australia

1. No person who has admitted, been convicted of, or is believed on reasonable grounds by a majority of the State committee to have committed any offence involving violence or sexual abuse against a young person, domestic violence, assault, offences involving child pornography, or similar crimes, should be permitted to be an office bearer, activity leader or spokesperson for RSCM Australia.
2. At all activities of RSCM Australia involving persons under the age of 18 there should be a designated person who is responsible for the welfare of young people. The designated person should be appointed by the Branch committee, and identified as such at the commencement of the activity. It is the responsibility of the designated person to be proactive in ensuring the safety of young people, and in reporting to RSCM Australia office holders and to appropriate authorities any incidents or concerns which may arise in relation to child safety and welfare.
The designated person should be either
 - A registered teacher or child-care worker
 - An authorised and accredited youth worker of a member church or denomination
 - A person who has submitted a police check to the state Branch Committee and also participated in an appropriate workshop on child protection.
3. Camps and similar activities which involve overnight stays or extended travel should be supervised at a ratio of not less than one adult leader to every ten participants under the age of 18. The conditions of paragraph 1 above must apply to all adult leaders, and the conditions in paragraph 2 above should apply to at least one out of every three adult leaders.
4. No adult should be alone with a young person in any non-public space. Care should be taken when giving auditions, individual instruction, transporting people in private vehicles, and administering first aid. In these circumstances another person should be present, preferably the designated person referred to in paragraph 2 or at least one other young person of the same gender.
5. Complaints about improper behaviour or abuse should be brought to the attention of the person organising the activity immediately, and a report should be made to the Branch committee. RSCM Australia has no authority or expertise to investigate complaints, and any allegations of illegal behaviour should be reported to the police without delay. It is the responsibility of the Branch committee to ensure that a complaint has been reported to the police, and to any other appropriate bodies (eg state Child and Family welfare authorities, denominational Professional Standards committees etc.)
6. The implementation of these guidelines is the responsibility of the Branch Committee. Branch Committees are encouraged to seek assistance and work co-operatively with denominational youth departments in ensuring that RSCM Australia activities are conducted in accordance with the accepted standards of member churches. This would include provision of these guidelines to organisations hosting RSCM Australia activities.