

## ***Child safe policy***

The Victorian State Government has introduced compulsory minimum standards that apply to organisations that provide services for children to help protect children from all forms of abuse. The Victorian Child Safety Standards now apply to **all** organisations that operate and provide services for children within Victoria.

The Victorian Speleological Association Inc (VSA) does **not** offer services for children *per se*, as we do not run youth camps or activities and we do not have members under 18 years of age. However we do have family membership and children attend events and meetings with their parents, and as such it is in our interest to have a basic child safe policy.

## ***Child Safety Commitment and Policy***

VSA is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all members and visitors.

As part of this commitment we have the following policies to help protect children and young people under the age of 18 from child abuse and neglect. VSA supports the safety, participation and wellbeing of children and seek to ensure the safety of any children involved in activities associated with the Association

We achieve this by:

- treating everyone with respect;
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children;
- ensuring as far as practicable that adults other than the parents or guardians are not left alone with a child;
- if an allegation of child abuse is made, ensure as quickly as possible that the child(ren) are safe..
- the committee acting on allegations promptly and appropriately

It is the shared responsibility of the VSA community to protect children and prevent child abuse and neglect.

VSA members seek to promote an environment in which children and their parents or guardians feel confident in discussing any allegations of child abuse or child safety concerns.

We have zero tolerance approach towards child abuse.

Any allegations of child abuse should be reported immediately to the VSA Committee who will act on it promptly and who will contact the relevant authority.

**Situations in which child(ren) are at immediate risk should be reported to Police by calling 000.**