

Standard 8

Safe physical and online environments

NPAQ's physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing and minimise the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed. Staff and volunteers are proactive in identifying and mitigating physical and online risks.

Our Safe Work Method Statement for Junior and Cadet Ranger programs are available upon request.

Other practices implemented

- Role descriptions for volunteers and staff outline child safety responsibilities for clear communication.
- Site assessments are conducted before programs and events, and events may be paused or cancelled due to adverse conditions such as extreme weather, critical child safety or wellbeing risk, or incident.
- Clear supervision. To minimise harm to children and young people, staff and volunteer supervision ratios are adhered to and adjusted based on location, activity and perceived risk. If NPAQ is unable to meet supervision ratios, programs and events may be downsized, paused or cancelled.
- Volunteers and staff are trained to ensure clear supervision. NPAQ adopts a hands-off policy for children and young people in the care of volunteers and staff for programs and events. Some exceptions apply, as physical touch may be needed for providing First Aid or preventing foreseeable harm to a child or young person, such as to prevent imminent slips, trips or falls.
- Photography, social media and online sharing consent is adhered to via conditions communicated to parents and guardians through the booking process and, additionally, often also in person. Only approved staff members with Blue Cards are permitted to take photos and videos. An allocated staff camera and phones are used during programs and events to minimise access to images of children and young people. Volunteers and staff are trained in safe and appropriate methods of taking photos and videos.

- Online platforms are chosen and monitored with care. Trained and approved staff members are permitted to share information online to prevent exposure to inappropriate materials. Social media spaces are monitored by staff to ensure responses to posts or comments are relevant and appropriate. Inappropriate responses – such as comments that communicate bullying, harassment or racism – are removed in a timely manner to ensure cultural safety in digital spaces.
- NPAQ considers ways in which the physical and online environment might promote cultural safety.

Should there be concerns about child safety and wellbeing, please email:
parksconnectprograms@npaq.org.au or ceo@npaq.org.au

PARKS CONNECT



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