

## **FRIENDS OF CORNISH HILL - CHILD SAFETY ENVIRONMENT POLICY (DRAFT)**

**AIM:** To provide a child safe environment for all minors interacting with Friends of Cornish Hill (FoCH) in related educational, cultural or environmental activities.

**BACKGROUND:** FoCH encourages active use of the Cornish Hill area from people of all ages, including Aboriginal people and those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and those with disabilities.

FoCH is committed to promoting an historical and environmental understanding of the area and offers funded educational activities for children, in conjunction with local schools, to enhance their knowledge of the site.

FoCH recognises the leading role of schools in complying with child safety standards in co-operative activities. FoCH however seeks to ensure that during these activities children are protected from harm, acknowledging the right of the child to feel safe and to be safe all of the time.

FoCH CoM has agreed to the following strategies to ensure compliance with its policy objectives.

### **STRATEGIES/ACTIONS:**

1. All FoCH members who volunteer, or via paid work on behalf of FoCH, must have a current and valid Working with Children Check. Copies of the WWCC cards will be held by the Secretary and be available for inspection to any member of the public if requested. WWCC cards will be reviewed annually prior to each AGM to ensure currency.
2. There is to be no one-to-one situations with a FoCH member and child during any FoCH related activities.
3. Equipment and activities must be appropriate for the age of the children. FoCH members/supervisors must provide a brief statement to the President PRIOR to activities commencing regarding the type and condition of equipment to be used.
4. For school events, each school is to provide a qualified first aid person plus up-to-date equipment to administer first aid directly to students if needed. A list of students with special dietary requirements will be provided by each school. FoCH will ensure that any refreshments will be appropriate to staff and student requirements.
5. Statements of the objectives of the activities, a commitment to child safety, who will conduct them and the WWCC status of those FoCH members participating will be provided to schools to send to parents/carers BEFORE activities commence. The President FoCH should be available for further queries should they arise.
6. Prior to activities commencing the FoCH leader will offer a "welcome to schools and children" and outline the objectives of the activities and expectations around safe and respectful behaviours on site - with each other and the local environment. Children will be asked if they have any questions of concern or need clarification prior to activities commencing. Feedback on the activity will be sought at the conclusion of each session.
7. If there is a complaint or concern about child safety it is to be raised with the school in the first instance and then referred to necessary authorities. The President FoCH is to be informed within 24 hours of school based concerns.

### **REVIEW:**

This policy will be reviewed annually. A copy of it will be available on the FoCH website.