**MSFC Statement of Commitment to Child Safety**

MSFC is committed to providing a child safe and child friendly environment, where children and young people with whom we have contact are safe and feel safe, and are able to actively participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Child safety is everyone’s responsibility. We have zero tolerance for child abuse.

Children and young people are vital and active participants in our organisation. We:

* Encourage and empower them to participate when we make decisions, especially about matters that directly affect them;
* Listen to their views and their voices, and respect what they have to say;
* Ensure they know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
* Communicate regularly with and encourage input from their families and carers.

MSFC is an open and inclusive organisation, where diversity is valued and embraced, and people from all walks of life, all sexual orientations and gender identities, all ages and all cultural backgrounds are welcome.

In recognition that the following groups of children and young people are particularly vulnerable, we will give particular attention to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability.

As well as having procedures in place to promote child safety and protect children from abuse, we are committed to building child safety into everyday thinking and practice within our organisation. As part of these, we:

* Educate our leaders, committee members, tutors, and other volunteers on child safety, and provide guidance and support to help them fulfil their responsibilities on child safety;
* Engage only suitable people to act as tutors, or to otherwise engage with children;
* Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;
* Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk;
* Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children;
* Promote to all MSFC members that child safety is everyone’s responsibility;
* Commit to regular review and update of our child safety procedures and practices;
* Promote and share openly our commitment to child safety.