



## **GUIDANCE FOR EVENT VOLUNTEERS**

### **Interaction with Children Guidelines**

Children have a special need for protection and policies. Coastrek is a child safe environment.

These guidelines have been developed for all persons managing or participating in a Coastrek event. The intention is to minimise risk and to keep the Coastrek community, especially minors (children under 18) safe.

Therefore, Coastrek will not allow a person recorded on the Australian National Child Offender Register to be a part of the event. If you are on the register you will not register to volunteer, participate or work at the event.

#### **Maintain appropriate boundaries.**

All persons involved in the running and managing of the Coastrek events should maintain clear:

##### *Physical boundaries*

- Only use physical contact that is appropriate between two parties
- Always Work within sight of others

##### *Emotional boundaries*

- Use positive feedback

##### *Social boundaries*

- Use appropriate language and conversational topics
- Please mind children in earshot
- Do not connect with children via social media or post videos, images or other online media without the parent's express consent

##### *Sexual boundaries*

- Do not discuss sexual themes, make sexual remarks or tell off-colour jokes
- Do not touch children in ways likely to make them feel uncomfortable

## **Minimise physical contact**

- Generally, physical contact with children who are volunteering or participating should be limited to:
- Provide assistance or medical attention
- Give sports massage
- Treat an injury
- Prevent or respond to an injury

## **All physical contact by personnel should fulfil the following criteria:**

- Physical contact should be appropriate and consensual
- Always in the presences of the child's guardian/parent
- Seek permission from the child and their guardian
- Child participants and volunteers should be briefed, congratulated or comforted in public not in an isolated setting

## **Avoid being alone with a child**

To protect yourself and the child from risk:

- Do not isolate yourself and a child and avoid being alone with any particular child
- If a child approaches you and wants to talk to you privately about a matter, do so in an open area and in sight of other adults.