

METROPOLITAN MALE CHOIR OF SA INC.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Policy

The members of the MMC are committed to the safety and welfare of children and to providing an enjoyable environment where children can participate in music performance and boys in particular can practice and enjoy singing in a choir.

Scope

The activities that involve choir members, Musical Directors and accompanists interacting with children are:

- During the auditions for the scholarship program and at the subsequent performances involving scholarship winners.
- For the activities involving the development, practices and performances of the (proposed) Metropolitan Boys Choir.

Definitions

The following definitions apply to this policy:

- 'abuse' refers to sexual, physical or emotional abuse
- 'child/children' refers to a person or persons under 18 years of age
- 'parent' refers to a parent or legal guardian
- 'supervisor' refers to any choir member, Musical Director or accompanist who has responsibility for the welfare of children during the scholarship or boys choir program.
- 'MMC' refers to the Metropolitan Male Choir of SA Inc.
- 'President' refers to the elected President of the MMC, or in his absence, the Deputy President elect.

Procedures

The President shall withdraw children from any activity where he believes the following requirements are not being met:

1. It is a condition of a child's involvement in the scholarships program (auditions and performances) that he/she is accompanied at all times by his/her parent, or a responsible adult designated by the parent.
2. The Management Committee of the MMC and all supervisors must be aware of, and comply with, their obligations under the Children's Protection Act 1993 (South Australia) (*relevant section attached*).
3. Choir members, Musical Directors or accompanists who will be directly involved in activities with children in the (proposed) Boy's choir will
 - have a current national police check which has been lodged with the President and is free of any record of offences which would be of concern in relation to working with children

- have completed mandatory reporting training: *Child Safe Environments – Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect*.
4. All choir supervisors must at all times observe protocols for child protection, and in particular:
 - must not be alone with children where other choir members, supervisors, or parents of the children involved or other responsible adults, cannot observe their interaction with the children
 - must not transport children to and from places other than as detailed in a consent note signed by the child's parent
 - must avoid any situation which might give rise to suspicion or complaint, such as the unnecessary touching of children, showing favouritism or contacting children involved in the Choir's activity outside of that activity where this would not occur naturally as part of community life
 - must not make or use audio, photographic or visual representations of children without the written consent of the parent and, in any event, will not make use of such materials not directly related to the purpose of the activity or which may encourage prurient interest.
 5. Any proposed activities involving children must have the approval of the Management Committee who in granting that approval will take into account the level of understanding and training of the adults involved in that activity.
 6. In order for a boy to be involved in the (proposed) Boys choir, the Musical Director must provide the child's parent(s) or guardian with:
 - an information sheet describing the nature of the activities of the choir
 - the measures to be taken to ensure the children's safety and well being
 - contact details for the supervisors responsible for the child in the course of the activity
 - information on whom to contact if they have any concerns.

Costs

Any costs involved in the implementation of this policy will be borne by the MMC, including the cost of national police checks and the cost of training.

Reference

- Children's Protection Act 1993 (South Australia)

Approved by the Metropolitan Male Choir of SA Management Committee on

15th day of November 2010

Colin Barry (President)

(Copied from the Children’s Protection Act 1993 (South Australia))

11—Notification of abuse or neglect

(1) If—

(a) a person to whom this section applies suspects on reasonable grounds that a child has been or is being abused or neglected; and

(b) the suspicion is formed in the course of the person's work (whether paid or voluntary) or of carrying out official duties,

the person must notify the Department of that suspicion as soon as practicable after he or she forms the suspicion.

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.

.....

(2) This section applies to the following persons:

...

(j) any other person who is an employee of, or volunteer in, a government or non-government organisation that provides health, welfare, education, sporting or recreational, child care or residential services wholly or partly for children, being a person who—

(i) is engaged in the actual delivery of those services to children; or

(ii) holds a management position in the relevant organisation the duties of which include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of those services to children.

(3) A notification under this section must be accompanied by a statement of the observations, information and opinions on which the suspicion is based.

...

(5) A person does not necessarily exhaust his or her duty of care to a child by giving a notification under this section.

(6) A person must not threaten or intimidate, or cause damage, loss or disadvantage to, a person to whom this section applies because the person has discharged, or proposes to discharge, his or her duty under subsection (1).

Maximum penalty: \$10 000.