

### Child Safe Code of Conduct

All Executive members, staff and volunteers of the Debaters Association of Victoria Incorporated (DAV) are required to observe child safe principles and expectations for appropriate behaviour by adults towards and in the company of children, as noted below.

All Executive members, staff and volunteers of the DAV are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety, participation, wellbeing and empowerment of children by:

- adhering to the DAV's Child Safe Policy at all times and the DAV's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety at all times;
- taking all reasonable steps to protect children from abuse;
- listening and responding to the views and concerns of children, particularly if they have stated that they or another child have been abused and/or are worried about their safety or the safety of another child;
- treating everyone with dignity and respect;
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal children;
- promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of children with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds;
- promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of children with a disability;
- modelling appropriate adult behaviour in an open and transparent way;
- respecting the privacy of parents and children by only disclosing personal information when necessary;
- where child abuse is suspected, ensuring that children are safe and protected from harm as quickly as possible;
- reporting any allegations of child abuse to a Regional Co-ordinator, the DAV Office or the DAV Executive and ensuring that any allegation is reported to the Victoria Police or Child Protection;
- understanding and complying with all reporting and/or disclosure obligations, including mandatory reporting and reportable conduct;
- supporting children to 'have a say' and participate in all relevant organisational activities where possible, especially on issues that are important to them;
- providing feedback and criticism which is respectful, constructive and appropriate to children participating in DAV activities; and
- minimising opportunities where they or another member of the DAV may be left alone with a child.

Executive members, staff and volunteers must not:

- develop any 'special' relationships with children that may be seen as favouritism or amount to 'grooming' behaviour including through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention;
- exhibit behaviours or engage in activities with children that may be construed as unnecessarily physical;
- put children at risk of abuse;

- do things of a personal nature that a child can do for themselves such as toileting or changing clothes;
- engage in open discussions of a mature or adult nature in the presence of children;
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children;
- express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children;
- discriminate against any child, including on the basis of age, gender, sexuality, race, cultural or disability;
- talk about children in a way which is disparaging, derogatory, sexual or otherwise inappropriate;
- have any contact (including online or via telephone) with a child or their family outside of our organisation without the knowledge and/or consent of the DAV Office or Executive; and
- ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse.

By observing these standards, you acknowledge your responsibility to immediately report any breach of this code of conduct to the DAV. Failure to comply with this code of conduct will be investigated by the DAV and may result in disciplinary action under the Constitution of the DAV.

[If you believe a child is at immediate risk of abuse, you will phone 000.](#)

**I agree to adhere to this code of conduct:**

Name: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....