

Safeguarding Vulnerable Children

Safeguarding Children and Young People

Children with additional needs are more susceptible to experiencing violence and may require more information, help and support when implementing the safeguarding program.

Additional barriers can exist when detecting the abuse or neglect of Children with a disability or those with additional needs. This can create extra safeguarding challenges. It is important to be mindful:

- not to make any assumptions that indicators of possible abuse such as behaviour, mood and injury to a child relate to the Child's disability. Further exploration and questions should be asked
- that children with a disability or additional needs can be disproportionately impacted by bullying without outwardly showing any signs
- that there may be communication barriers that are difficult to overcome in order to determine if action under the Member Protection Policy is required.

Children may be more susceptible to harm than other participants because they may:

- lack the mutual support and protection of a peer group
- require higher degrees of physical care and support
- have limited communication skills
- find it difficult to resist inappropriate interventions
- have a history of having limited or no choice
- have a degree of dependency on a carer conflicting with the need to report harm or raise concerns.

Strategies to protect vulnerable Children and Young People include:

- providing information and education about safeguarding, especially what is and what is not safe touching to be learnt and practised by all members
- recognising the importance of listening to children, using basic language and, where possible, using visual cues to assist
- embracing the safeguarding program throughout the entire Club.

