

**BANKSTOWN BUSHWALKING CLUB INC.
CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY POLICY**

Updated 12 September, 2021



The purpose of this document is to ensure a high level of protection to children attending Bankstown Bushwalking Club activities.

Children are to be encouraged and welcomed on all club trips that are within their capabilities.

In this document protection is defined as ensuring children are not harmed physically or emotionally from both real and perceived dangers and situations.

This policy is also designed to protect adults from being exposed to situations where they could be perceived to be in a compromising position relating to child abuse and mistreatment.

Definitions

Accompanying adult – A parent, legal guardian or other adult (for example a family member or family friend) who is authorised by a parent or guardian and is responsible for the safety and wellbeing of the child.

Bankstown Bushwalking Club activity – any activity that appears on the published program of the Bankstown Bushwalking Club or is advertised as a short notice activity using the bankstownbush@googlegroups.com email address.

Child – a person under 18 years of age.

Conduct

Any child attending a Bankstown Bushwalking Club activity must:

- Be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian or care giver at all times (the accompanying adult must be in sight or in voice contact at all times).
- Have the activity attendance sheet relevant to the activity signed by their accompanying adult on their behalf.
- Abide by all rules in the club and follow the instructions of the Leader of the activity.
- Inform their accompanying adult if they wish to temporarily leave the immediate activity group (e.g. go to the toilet).

Leaders are not be compelled to accept children on an activity if they feel uncomfortable or reluctant to do so, and parents should always ask the leader's permission prior to bringing a child on an activity.

Child Protection

At all times on a club activity all children are to be either:

- With their accompanying adult, or
- Accompanied by two or more adults.

This two-deep adult policy ensures protection to both children and adults from both real and perceived instances of child abuse.

Children are to sleep under the immediate watch of their own family or guardians.

Specifically:

- When camping in tents, wherever practicable, children and family groups are to sleep in their own family tents.
- In the event of accommodation in huts, club members should ensure members accompanied by children should be given first choice of sleeping area so children and their family groups / guardian can bunk down together.

Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)

The club has appointed a Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) to coordinate child protection activities and ensure that agreed procedures are carried out. They should be informed of any incidents. The MPIO does not carry out any investigations concerning an alleged incident. The MPIO ensures that police have been contacted in accordance with club policy and procedure and the law.