

CHILD SAFE E-NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER
2026



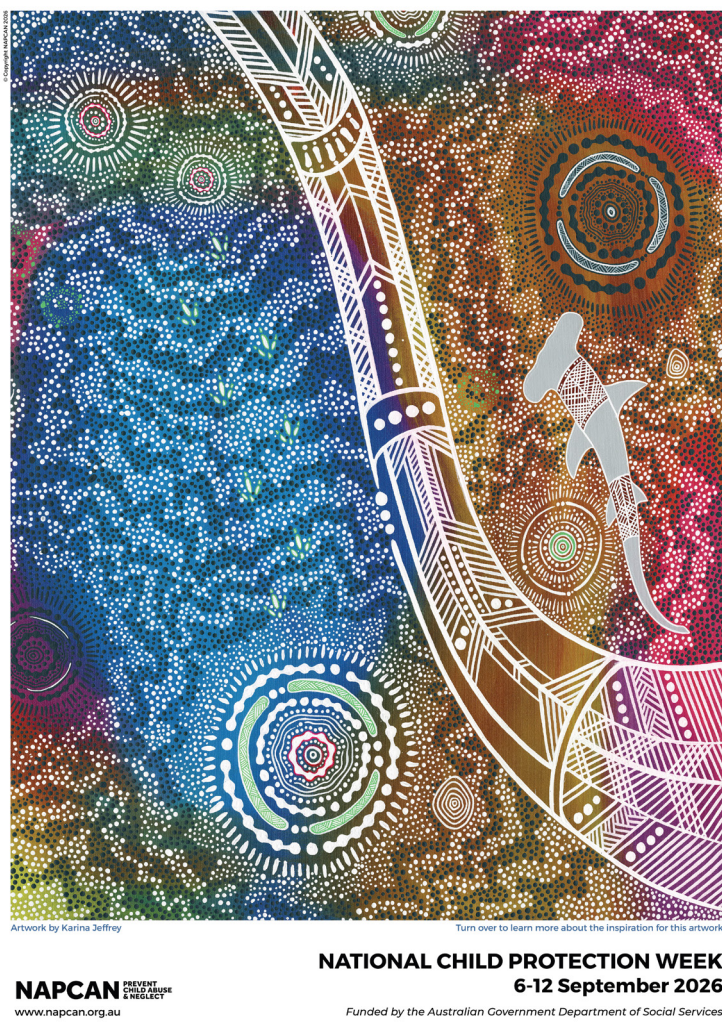
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Welcome to the September 2026 SLSNSW Child Safe e-Newsletter

This season we continue to provide resources to assist you to continue developing child safe practices for your club and community.

In this edition:

- ✓ National Child Protection Week 6-12 September – *'Shifting Conversations to Action'*
- ✓ Start of Season Child Safe Checklist
- ✓ SLSNSW Pilot Program for Working with Children Check Verifications
- ✓ Updates to the SLSNSW Working with Children Requirements
- ✓ eSafety Commissioner report – *'The digital sideline: Exploring cyberbullying and online hate by people connected to children's sports'*
- ✓ SLSNSW Child Safe Introduction and Implementation Webinars
- ✓ Child Safe Training and Resources



Artwork by Karina Jeffrey

Turn over to learn more about the inspiration for this artwork.

NAPCAN PREVENT
CHILD ABUSE
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NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
6-12 September 2026

Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services

National Child Protection Week 6-12 September *'Shifting Conversation to Action'*

This year the theme of *'Shifting Conversation to Action'* continues as we aim to raise awareness of child safe risks and implement strategies to reduce the risk of harm to children and young people in Surf Life Saving and the community.

As the season starts, encourage your club executive to start **'taking action'** by reviewing and signing the [Club Child Safe Commitment Statement](#). Display the signed copy in your club house, on your club website and in communications to inform members and the community about your club's commitment to keeping children and young people safe. Promoting and displaying your club child safe commitment statement can also help deter potential offenders.

Continue 'taking action' by using the **Start of Season Child Safe Checklist** to help set up child safe practice.

STANDARD 3

Families and communities are informed and involved. Organisations actively engage with families and communities to support children.

Start of Season Child Safe Checklist



Club Child Safe Commitment Statement

- ☐ Ask the club executive to review and re-sign the **Club Child Safe Commitment Statement for 2026/27** and display in the club house and on the club website. (A fillable template is found [here](#) and on page 13 of the [Child Safe Guideline](#)).

Child Safe Risk Management

- ☐ Promote the [SLSNSW Child Safe Resources](#) to your club to assist with Child Safe Risk Management.
- ☐ Review child safe signage in bathrooms and change rooms to inform club members about expected child safe behaviours. **SLSNSW Bathroom and Change Room signage templates** are available [here](#).
- ☐ Promote your club's child safe practices and **Member Protection Team** to all members e.g. posters in your club house, bathrooms and change rooms and on your club website.

Working with Children Checks (WWCC)

- ☐ Confirm the WWCC process for your club and who is responsible for completing verifications.

- ☐ Check the club login and contact details on the Office of the Children's Guardian WWCC Employer Portal. *Ensure a generic club email address is used for the OCG account so it can be accessed and the club can be contacted even if position holders' change.*
- ☐ Use the [SLSNSW WWCC Requirements](#) flow chart to support your club to identify who needs a WWCC.
- ☐ Remind your club executive that **all WWCCs MUST be verified on the WWCC Employer Portal on the OCG Website** to link to your club.

Child Safe Awareness training

- ☐ Identify the position holders who must complete the Child Safe Awareness (18 years +) course as part of their role (**see the list of roles below**) and provide reminders to them if they have not completed the course.
- ☐ Provide links to the [SLS Hub](#) via your newsletter and/or website for members to access the Child Safe Awareness course in the Safety & Wellbeing section.



STANDARD 7

Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training.

Child Safe Awareness course (18+) for patrol members in 2026/27 season

Patrol Members over 18 years are now required to complete the Child Safe Awareness course (18 years +) course.

This will be a national requirement from 2027/28 season and will be part of the skills maintenance requirements for patrol members.



SLS - Child Safe Awareness (18 years +)

Surf Life Saving

Roles that require the SLSA Child Safe Awareness (18+) course;

- ✓ Club and Branch Officers
- ✓ Patrol Captains and Patrol Vice Captains
- ✓ Patrol Members aged 18+
- ✓ Junior Activity Chairs
- ✓ Age Managers
- ✓ Coaches and Officials
- ✓ Trainers, Assessors and Facilitators
- ✓ MPIOs
- ✓ Complaint Managers
- ✓ Child Safe Coordinators

Please remind members - the Child Safe Awareness course (13-17yrs) is ONLY for members under 18 years



SLS - Child Safe Awareness (13-17 years)

Surf Life Saving

Working with Children Check (WWCC) Verifications Pilot Program

Verifying WWCCs through the Employer Portal on the Office of the Children's Guardian website is a critical part of ***'taking action'*** for child safety.

This season SLSNSW have introduced a WWCC Verification Pilot Program which aims to reduce the administrative burden for clubs

and assist them to complete WWCC verifications through the employer portal of the Office of the Children's Guardian.

This season we are offering an invitation to all priority clubs to take part in this program, and we look forward to hearing the feedback from these clubs.

STANDARD 5

People working with children are suitable and supported

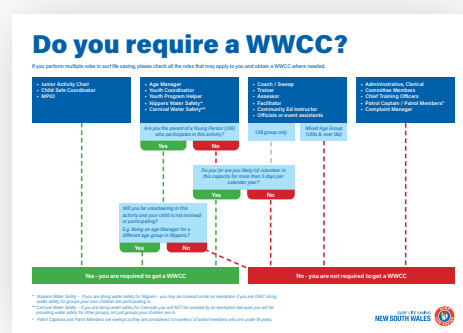
Updates to the SLSNSW Working with Children Check (WWCC) Requirements and Frequently Asked Questions

This season we have updated the WWCC requirements to include:

- More information to clarify the role of Water Safety at both Nippers and at Carnivals and how exemptions may apply.
- Complaint Managers no longer require a WWCC.
- Using SurfGuard Notes and Reason fields to record key WWCC information.

When documenting a WWCC in SurfGuard:

- Use the **'Notes'** field under the 'Declaration' section on a member's SurfGuard profile to document if the member has been contacted to get a WWCC and outcomes of their verification.
- Use the **'Reason'** field under the 'Working with Children Check' section to document why a member is exempt from requiring a WWCC.



eSafety Commissioner Report

The digital sideline: Exploring cyberbullying and online hate by people connected to children's sports'

This report is part of the eSafety Commissioner's 'Keeping Kids Safe Online Survey' and looks at cyberbullying and online hate. A survey of 1,972 children aged 10-17 years was conducted between December 2024 and February 2025.

In relation to these children aged 10-17yrs who participated in organised sport, the survey found;

- 18% of the children had been cyberbullied by someone connected to their sport.
- 6% of the children had experienced online hate by someone connected to their sport.

The survey report includes findings regarding how children aged 10-17 experienced cyberbullying or online hate by someone connected to their sport and the people who were responsible.

Communication channel / platform	Cyber-bullying	Online Hate
Messaging, group chats or call	59%	57%
Comments or posts on their own or other's social media	36%	48%
Online video games and associated forums	23%	29%
Comments or posts on online platforms run by their sports team or club	18%	32%

Person responsible	Cyber-bullying	Online Hate
Teammate or someone in another team	66%	50%
Coach, trainer, instructor or referee of their team or another team	20%	35%
Parent, caregiver or family member of a teammate or opponent	19%	33%
Adult who watches or follows their team/sport	16%	28%
Another child who watches or follows their team/sport	20%	20%

More details about the report and findings will be provided in the [eSafety Commissioner's free webinar](#).

See Training and Resources below for more details.

Training and Resources

SLSNSW [Executive Training Calendar](#) provides an outline of SLSNSW training and webinars for the season.

SLSNSW Child Safe Introduction – Thursday 10 September 2026, 6pm-7.30pm

SLSNSW Child Safe Implementation – Tuesday 13 October 2026, 6pm-7.30pm

Please note - The Child Safe Introduction includes the same content as the 2025 session. However, all members are welcome to attend, ask questions and network with their peers.

eSafety Commissioner - provides free webinars and resources for Online Safety in Sport

The digital sidelines: Cyberbullying and online hate in young people's sport

- ✓ 9 September 2026, 12:30pm
- ✓ 27 October 2026, 7:00pm

Digital spaces are part of young people's sport, but just as harmful behaviour can occur in-person on the field, it can also happen online. This free webinar aims to support sport leaders, coaches and managers to encourage positive online conduct, and protect young people. The session will cover;

- ✓ Types of cyberbullying and online hate
- ✓ Insight into emerging trends, including the role of AI
- ✓ Practical strategies and resources for preventing harm, responding to incidents, and supporting young people.

Social media Self-Defence in Sport

- ✓ 18 November 2026, 12:30pm

Being online is part of sporting life. For athletes, coaches and officials it's a great way to communicate, connect and develop your profile and reputation. However, a public profile in sport can increase the risk of online abuse. This free 45-minute presentation will provide guidance on:

- ✓ types of online abuse
- ✓ the impacts of online abuse
- ✓ setting up personal social media accounts with safety in mind
- ✓ proactive actions to reduce online harm as well as de-escalation strategies
- ✓ how to report abuse
- ✓ support services and free resources.

Support

Thank you again for all your help with promoting child safe practices in Surf Life Saving.

Please contact us at memberservices@surflifesaving.com.au. We are happy to answer questions and follow up resources as you continue to implement the Child Safe Standards.

Think before you share

Whether it's filming your family, celebrating a big win or capturing the action, taking photos and videos are a part of sport.

But not everyone loves being in photos or videos. When taking and sharing sport snaps, remember to:

- **Follow** your sport rules
- **Ask** people featured in your images and videos if it's OK
- **Respect** that not everyone wants an image or video of themselves online.



Scan the QR code or visit [eSafety.gov.au/sport](https://esafety.gov.au/sport) for online safety tips



Online safety 101 for community sport clubs

- ✓ 12 November 2026, 12.30pm

Poor conduct and abuse can occur in-person at sport. It can also happen online. This free 45-minute webinar is designed for community sport clubs to create a safer online environment. It will provide tips, guidance and advice on:

- ✓ types of online harm in sport
- ✓ how to deal with online harm
- ✓ creating a safe online environment at your club
- ✓ common online issues
- ✓ resources to help clubs