



WEST GIPPSLAND DANCE FESTIVAL

CHILD SAFE STANDARD 3: CODE OF CONDUCT

West Gippsland Dance Festival Inc is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Our competition recognises the importance of, and a responsibility for, ensuring our festival is a safe, supportive and enriching environment which respects and fosters the dignity and self-esteem of children and young people, and enables them to thrive in their artistic and performance endeavours.

This code of conduct aims to protect children and reduce any opportunities for child abuse or harm to occur. It also assists in understanding how to avoid or better manage risky behaviours and situations. It is intended to complement child protection legislation, event policies and procedures and professional standards, codes or ethics as these apply to committee members, teachers, parents, competitors and volunteers.

West Gippsland Dance Festival Inc committee will support implementation and monitoring of the code of conduct and will plan, implement and monitor arrangements to provide an inclusive, safe and orderly competition environment. The festival office-bearers and festival committee will also provide information and support to enable the code of conduct to operate effectively. All involved in the conduct of West Gippsland Dance Festival are required to comply with the code of conduct by observing expectations for appropriate behaviour detailed below. The code of conduct applies in all situations, including relationships and communications with audience, entrants, teachers and parents as well as preparation/change areas and the performance space.

Acceptable behaviours

As committee, volunteers, audience, participants and any other member of the community involved in this child-related work individually, we are responsible for supporting and promoting the safety of children by:

- * upholding the festival's statement of commitment to child safety at all times and adhering to the event's child safe policy, treating competitors, teachers and families involved in the event with respect, both within the theatre environment and outside as part of normal social and community activities.
- * listening and responding to the views and concerns of our stakeholders, particularly if they are telling us that they or another child has been abused or that they are worried about their safety/the safety of another child.

- * promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants.
- * promoting the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of students with culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds.
- * promoting the safety, participation and empowerment of students with a disability.
- * reporting any allegations of child abuse or other child safety concerns to the committee.
- * understanding and complying with all reporting or disclosure obligations (including mandatory reporting) as they relate to protecting children from harm or abuse.
- * ensuring as quickly as possible, that participants are safe and protected from harm, if child abuse is suspected.

Unacceptable behaviours

As committee, volunteers, audience, participants and any other member of the community involved in this child-related work we must not:

- * ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of child abuse.
- * develop a relationship with any participant that could be seen as favouritism or amount to “grooming” behaviour (for example, offering gifts).
- * exhibit behaviours or engage in activities with participants which may be interpreted as abusive and not justified by the performance or service delivery context.
- * ignore behaviours by other adults towards participants when they appear to be overly familiar or inappropriate.
- * discuss content of an intimate nature or use sexual innuendo with participants.
- * treat a child unfavourably because of their disability, age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality or ethnicity.
- * communicate directly with a participant through personal or private contact channels (including social media, email, instant messaging, texting etc.) except where that communication is reasonable in all the circumstances, related to their entry or where there is a safety concern or other urgent matter.
- * photograph or video a participant except in accordance with agreed circumstances and commercial providers, or where required for duty of care purposes.