

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

Ronald McDonald House System Policy

Policy Statement

The mission of Ronald McDonald House in Australia is to provide essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare.

We are committed to safeguarding children and young people in our Programs by ensuring they are provided in a safe and supportive environment for all. Ronald McDonald House respects and ensures equity for all children and young people who access our Programs. This includes those from culturally or linguistically diverse backgrounds, unable to live at home, living with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People and those who are Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA+). Our Board Members, employees, volunteers, and contractors actively ensure our commitment to the highest possible standards to protect children and young people from abuse, harm, risk of harm and neglect

Purpose

Ronald McDonald House ensures the safety and well-being of all children and young people accessing our Programs, and acknowledge their human rights, including their right to be safe, have a say in decisions and be taken seriously.

Every Ronald McDonald House Board Member, employee, volunteer and contractor takes responsibility for ensuring Programs are delivered in a safe environment for children. This is achieved by adhering to all safeguarding policies and procedures and promptly reporting any concerns regarding the safety and wellbeing of children and young people through Ronald McDonald House's safeguarding reporting system, Donesafe and making mandatory reports to police or child protection agencies.

Scope & Responsibilities

Beneficiaries of our Programs, employees, Board members and volunteers, as well as other involved persons including but not limited to: our supporters, partners, contractors, and external third-party providers must operate within the minimum standards outlined in the [Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework](#) (SCYP Framework)

Note: South Australia's distinct legislative requirements necessitate a separate approach to child safety. Any additional requirements will be outlined in this policy once confirmed.

Ronald McDonald House Australia is available to Chapters 24/7 to support the Organisational Leader with any instances of breaches or suspected breaches of this policy, including access to external legal and PR services.

Ronald McDonald House shows our commitment to Safeguarding Children and Young People by ensuring:

- Board Members, employees, volunteers and contractors have access to safeguarding information.

- an environment where people feel safe asking questions, are supported to learn and understand their safeguarding responsibilities.
- our processes and practices reflect our commitment. Recruitment and induction through to learning and development opportunities, meetings and conferences clarify and ensure the behaviour Ronald McDonald House expects everyone to adhere to, to ensure a safe environment for children and young people in our programs.
- we do everything possible to recruit people who share and uphold our commitment to safeguarding children and young people.
- families, children and young people know what to expect of Ronald McDonald House and are encouraged to share feedback on their experiences in Programs.
- Programs and services provided by Ronald McDonald House are inclusive and the diverse needs of families, children and young people are respected.
- we constantly review our ways of working, striving to ensure our safeguarding children and young people policies and procedures are best practice and effectively manage and mitigate risk.
- Images or videos of children and young people must only be captured by Ronald McDonald House team members using Ronald McDonald House owned devices, or equipment operated by professional photographers or film crews. While personal phones may be carried during Program activities, they must not be used to record or photograph children or young people.

Policy Principles

Any breach, or perceived breach of the SCYP Policy and Framework, whether it be by employees, board members, volunteers, contractors, supporters, partners or third-party providers will result in immediate removal or suspension of that person or person(s) from Ronald McDonald House Charities premises and/or program services and may result in a mandatory report to the relevant child protection authority. An investigation will follow, which could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of any employment, volunteering or contracting agreement, as well as legal consequences.

At all times, Ronald McDonald House Charities will uphold the privacy of all parties in line with the Privacy Policy, Respectful Workplace Policy and RMHC Code of Conduct and Ethics. In the case of employees, Board members and volunteers, access to the Employee Assistance Program, Sonder will be provided free of charge, and available 24/7.

Definitions

Define any specialised terms, acronyms, or controlled expressions used in the policy.

Term	Definition
SCYP Framework	The SCYP framework is located on ShareHub. It's a comprehensive collection of policies, guidelines, information and supporting materials that embeds safeguarding responsibilities, culture, and practices to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Related Policies & Legislation

Associated Policies

- Ronald McDonald House Charities Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework
- Suspected Child Abuse Procedure
- Supervision of Children Policy
- Social Media Policy and Social Media Guidelines
- Ronald McDonald House Charities Code of Conduct and Ethics
- Eligible Families Policy
- Workplace Health & Safety Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Respectful Workplace Policy

Legislation

- Children and Young People Act 2008 (ACT)
 - Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 (ACT)
 - Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)
 - Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012 (NSW)
 - Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013
 - Care and Protection of Children Act (NT) 2007
 - Child Protection Act 1999 (QLD)
 - Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (QLD)
 - Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA)
 - Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997 (TAS)
 - Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013 (TAS)
 - Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (VIC)
- The Worker Screening Act 2020 (VIC)
 - Children and Community Services Act 2004 (WA)
 - Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004 (WA)

Policy Approval & Version History

Complete the approval and review information below before publication.

Version	Description of Changes	Approved By	Effective Date	Next Review
V1.0	Creation of Policy	MLG	September 2022	September 2024
V2.0	Policy Review	MLG	November 2025	November 2027