



Is your club child safe?





Acknowledgement of Country

Content Warning



Call 1300 22 4636



Call 13 11 14
24/7 Crisis Support



1800 55 1800

Mental Health Line
1800 011 511 

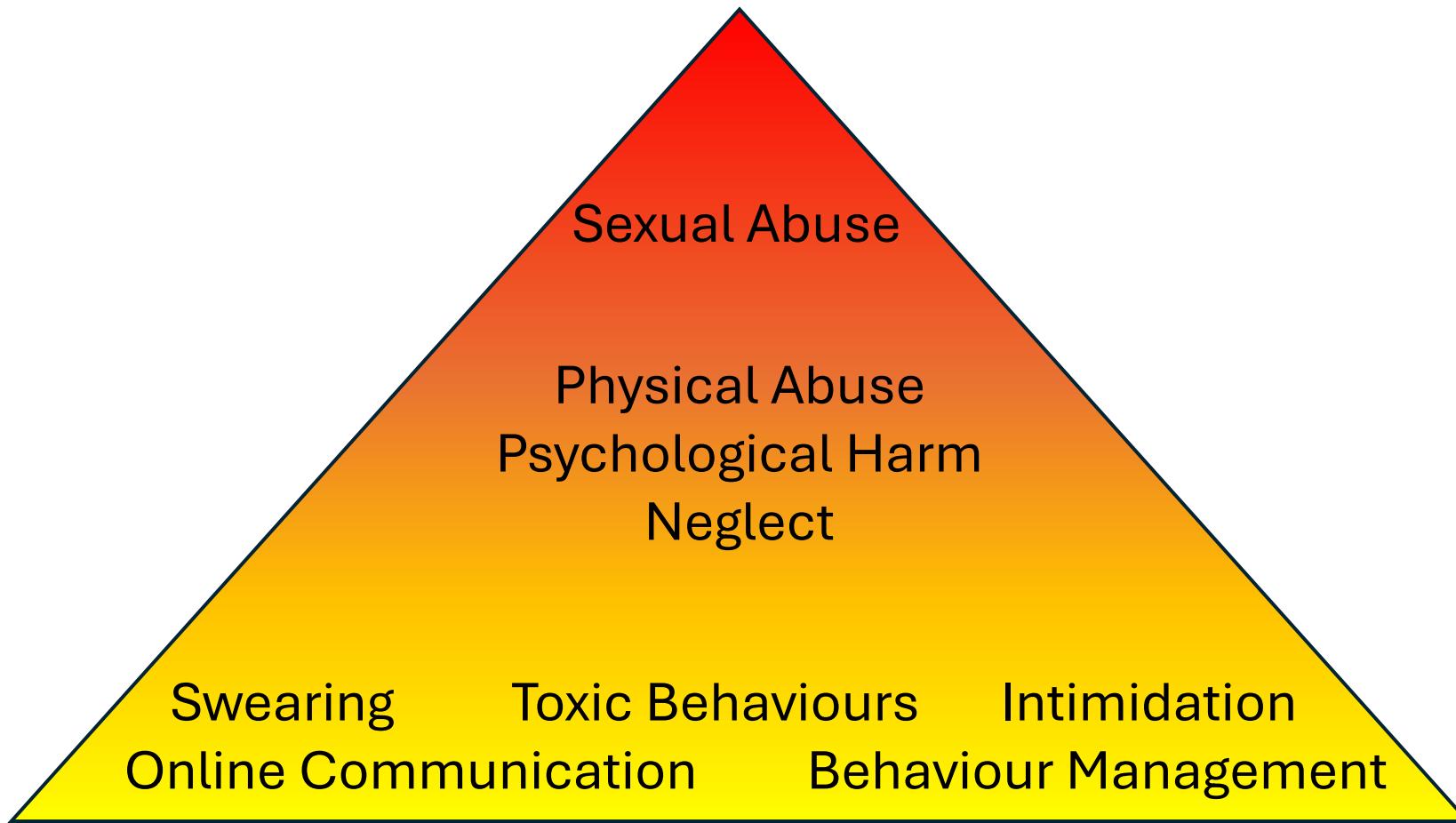


Agenda

- What is Safeguarding?
- Working With Children Check
- How can we keep our clubs safe?
- Resources that can help you.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding focuses on preventing child abuse in sport.



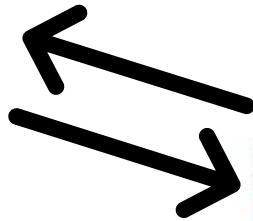
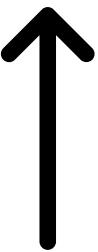


The Working With Children Check

DETERMINE	Whether you need anyone to have the check
REGISTER	Your club as an 'employer' on the OCG's website
COLLECT	WWCC numbers of child-related workers/volunteers
VERIFY	Each WWCC/APP using the employer portal
RECORD	Keep records of who you have verified

The Working With Children Check

Verification is the key



Office of the
Children's Guardian





The Working With Children Check

- Paid employees need to pay for their WWCC, volunteers are free.
- There are two requirements stated in the legislation:
 - **Verification** of child-related workers
 - **Maintain records** of who you have verified
- The WWCC should be your top priority as it is strictly enforced.

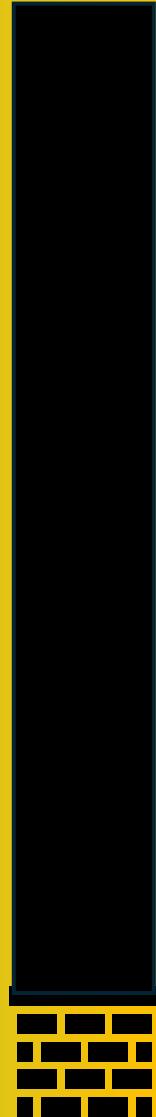
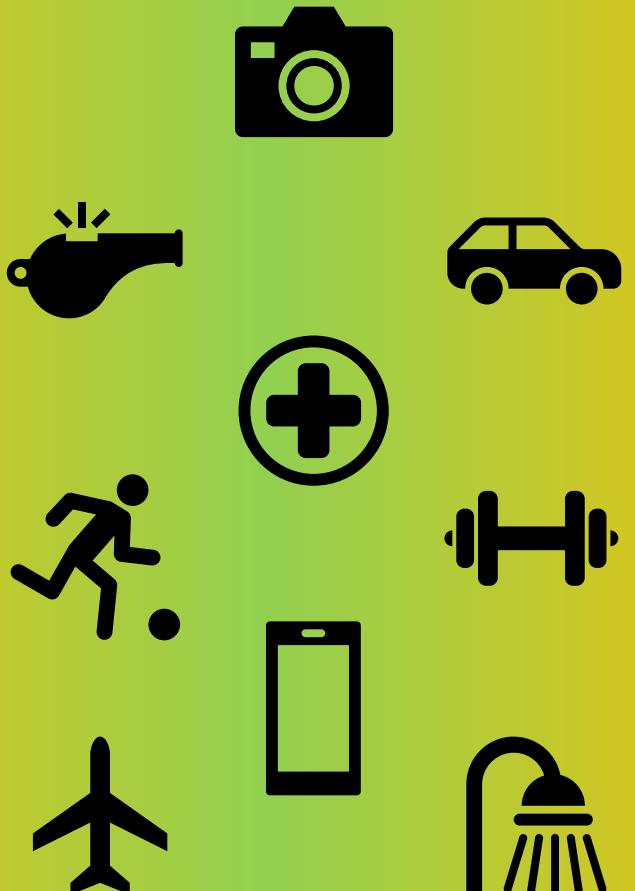
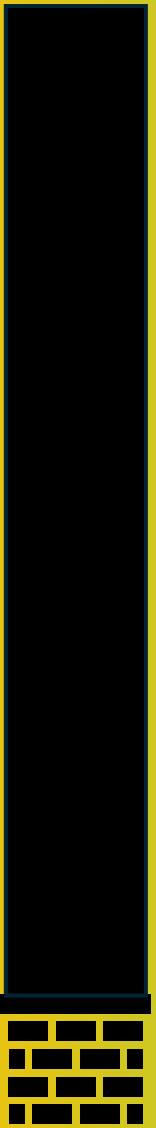
Scenario 1

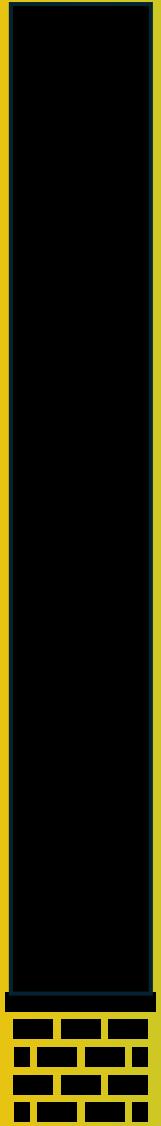
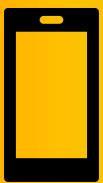
- Trent is a Strength and Conditioning coach. He identifies a young striker as a high potential athlete and initiates extra training sessions
- Trent works alone with the child so that there are no dispositions. He can tailor workouts to the child's needs
- Trent can't access club facilities outside of regular hours, and doesn't want to create more work for the committee, so he trains the child at his home. You appreciate that he is giving up a lot of his own time to help a talented child succeed.

To the outside observer, these two scenarios are indistinguishable

Scenario 2

- Trent is a Strength and Conditioning coach. He tells the parents that their child would benefit from targeted training. He is keen to work with the child outside of regular hours so that he can be alone with the child. He carefully chooses times and locations so that there will be no supervision with the child.
- As these sessions are not officially approved by the club, Trent uses his social media to contact the child.
- Trent is not only grooming the child; he is grooming the parents and manipulating the club.





Safeguarding at the National level

Football Australia has developed Safeguarding Policies that support clubs.

Football Australia's Child Safeguarding Policy will take care of the majority of your policy needs.

You need to be promoting and using it.

Alongside the National policy, your club/association can implement your own specific initiatives.



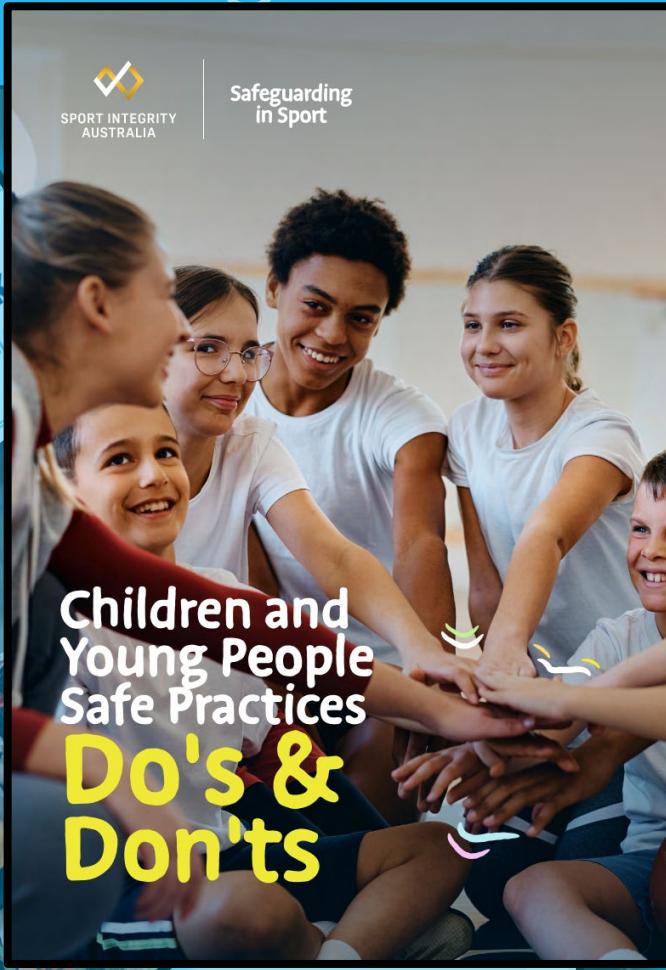
Safeguarding in New South Wales

Football NSW is committed to improving child safety in affiliated Football NSW branches.

CHILD SAFETY

Child Safe Standards - Getting Started

The Child Safe Standards are compulsory for all Football NSW branches, referee branches.



FOOTBALL IS A CHILD SAFE SPORT

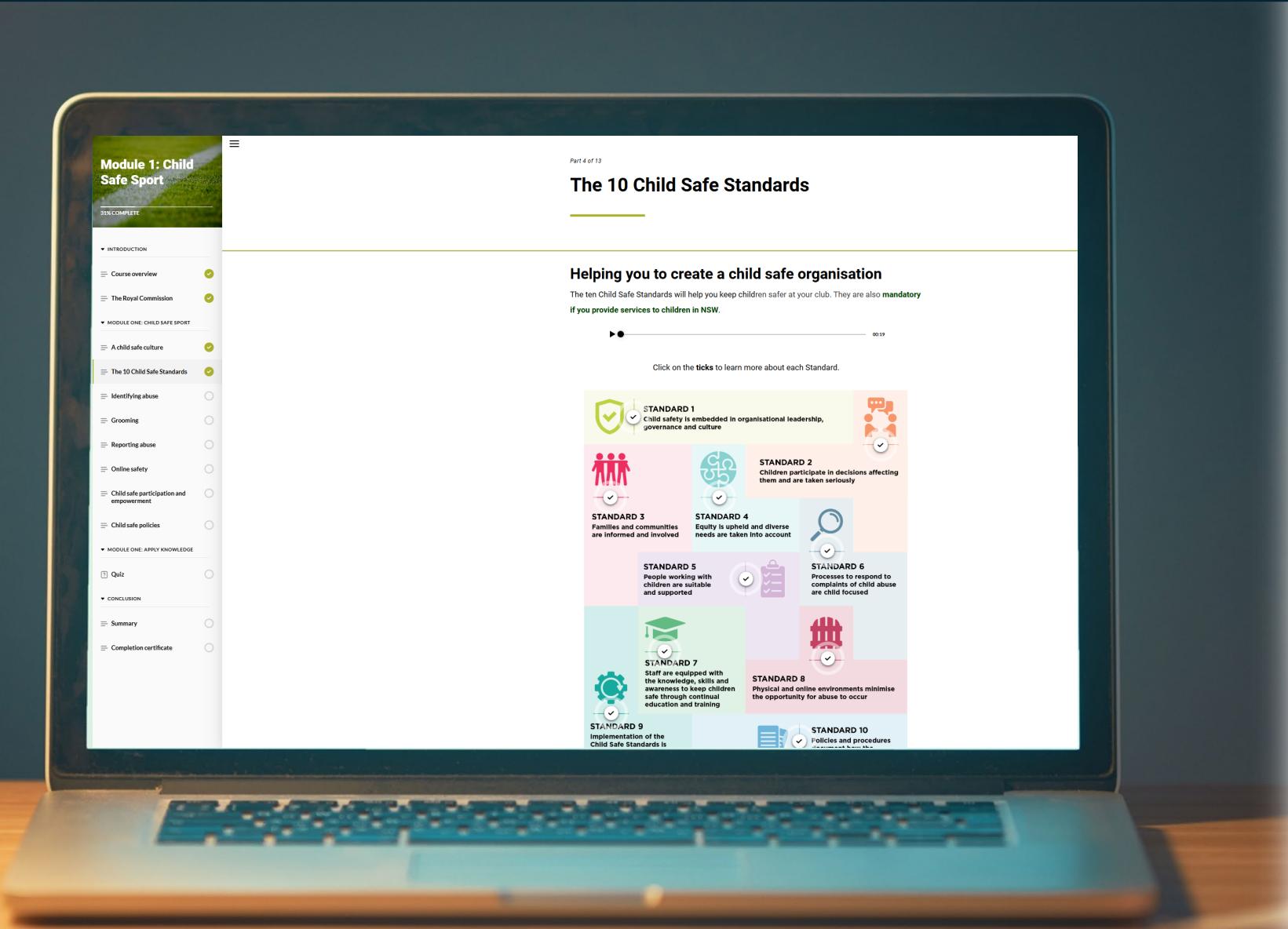
If you ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable please tell a parent/guardian or a club member.

You can always speak to [redacted]

FOOTBALL AUSTRALIA

needs a Member Information Officer

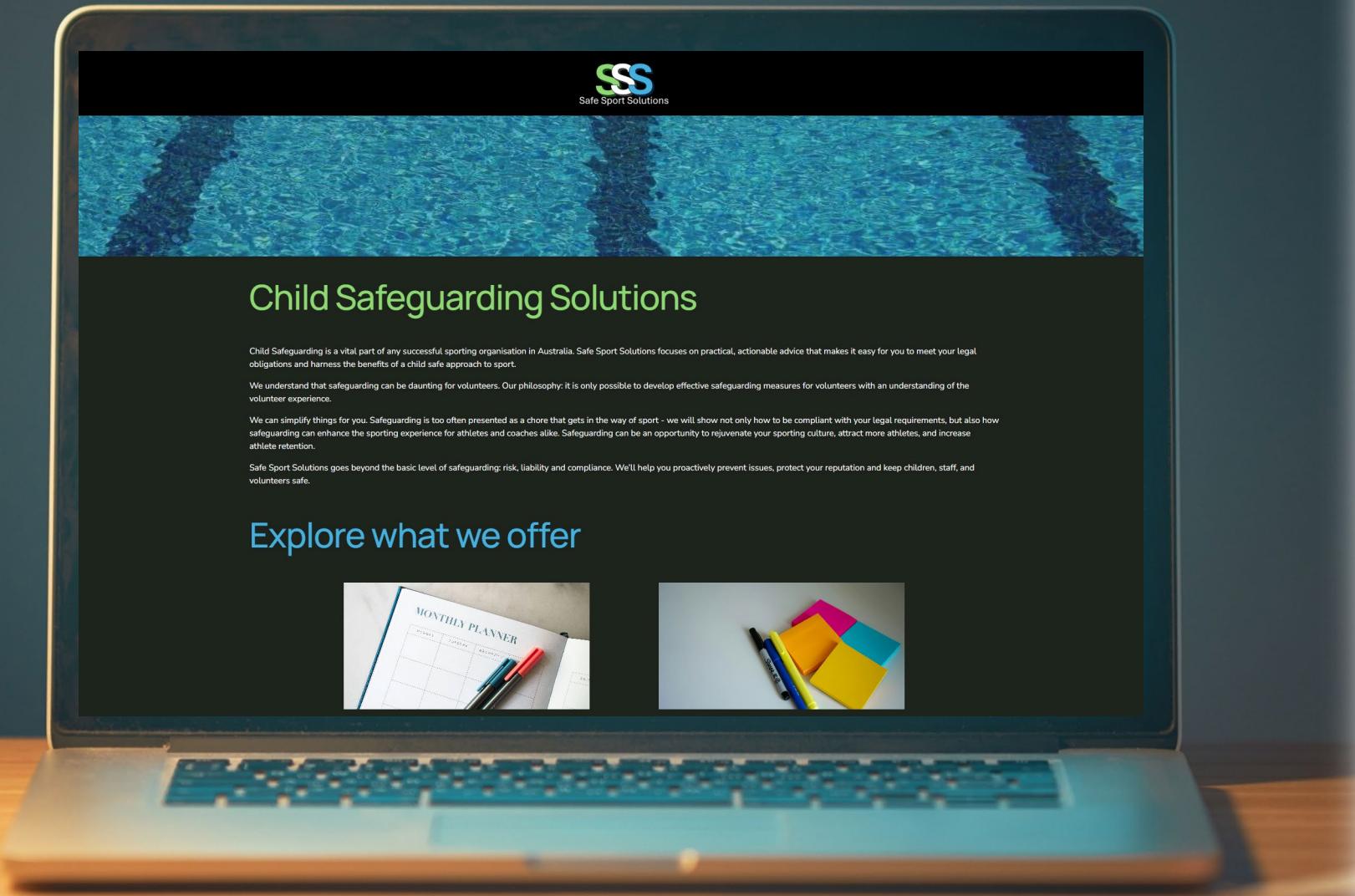
Resources to support you



Office of the Children's Guardian eLearning

- Sport-specific course
- Short and designed for busy volunteers
- Free

Resources to support you



Child Safeguarding Solutions

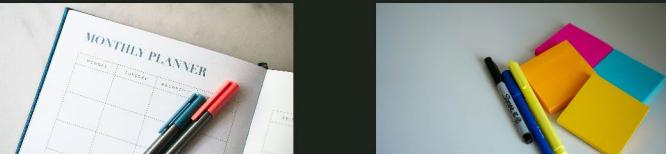
Child Safeguarding is a vital part of any successful sporting organisation in Australia. Safe Sport Solutions focuses on practical, actionable advice that makes it easy for you to meet your legal obligations and harness the benefits of a child safe approach to sport.

We understand that safeguarding can be daunting for volunteers. Our philosophy: it is only possible to develop effective safeguarding measures for volunteers with an understanding of the volunteer experience.

We can simplify things for you. Safeguarding is too often presented as a chore that gets in the way of sport - we will show not only how to be compliant with your legal requirements, but also how safeguarding can enhance the sporting experience for athletes and coaches alike. Safeguarding can be an opportunity to rejuvenate your sporting culture, attract more athletes, and increase athlete retention.

Safe Sport Solutions goes beyond the basic level of safeguarding: risk, liability and compliance. We'll help you proactively prevent issues, protect your reputation and keep children, staff, and volunteers safe.

Explore what we offer



- Sport-specific safeguarding support
- Can work with individual clubs or Associations
- Services include workshops, audits, risk management support.
- Contact
Matt.Sibley@safesportsolutions.com.au



Workshop Exercise

On your table is a checklist of child safeguarding actions for your club. In groups, discuss each entry.

There are two steps:

1

Are you already doing this? If you are, do you have any advice on how to implement it? If not, how might you go about making it happen?

2

Identify three child safeguarding actions that you will implement at your club.

2026 FOOTBALL NSW CLUB DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY 2026

