



## **The Story Island Project Child-safe, Child-friendly Policy**

The Story Island Project wants the young people who participate in our programs to have a safe, happy and rewarding experience. We support and respect young people, our staff and volunteers.

This policy guides staff and volunteers on how to behave with young people involved in the Story Island Project. It focuses on how we can promote young people's participation and help make it a safe experience for them.

The Story Island Project supports the active participation of young people. We listen to young people's views, respect what they say and involve them when we make decisions, especially about matters that directly affect them.

Support for young people, staff and volunteers and selection processes:

1. We promote respect, fairness and consideration for all staff and volunteers. We will not tolerate bullying in any form or at any level.
2. All staff and volunteers will be supported in their activities. Volunteers will always be supervised by Story Island staff when interacting with young people at the Story Island Project.
3. The Story Island Project will maintain a rigorous and consistent staff and volunteer screening and selection process. We will interview all potential staff and volunteers, and they will all need to have registration under the *Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013*.
4. We will give all new staff and volunteers a copy of the Story Island Project's *Child-safe Child-friendly Policy* and *Code of Conduct*. All staff and volunteers need to sign agreements showing that they have received, read and understood The Story Island Project's policies and procedures and that they agree to comply with them.
5. Staff may have a probationary or trial period when working with the Story Island Project.
6. In Tasmania, any person who is employed or is a volunteer with an organisation which provides education services, and which receives funding from the Crown for these services, is a mandatory reporter.

This means if a child discloses to you about possible abuse, you are legally obliged to report the issue to Child Protection Services (1300 737 639).

Of course, if you are nervous about this, you are most welcome to discuss it with whoever is leading the workshop or with the Volunteer Coordinator.

Communicating this policy:

1. We will discuss this policy during induction sessions for all new staff and volunteers and also when there is any change to this policy, the *Code of Conduct* or the relevant legislation.
2. The Story Island Project's *Child-safe Child-friendly Policy*, and *Code of Conduct* will be clearly available on The Story Island Project's website.