



Ronald McDonald  
House Charities®

## Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

### Policy Statement

Ronald McDonald House Charities mission is to support the ever-changing needs of seriously ill children and their families. We provide children and young people with a positive and enriching environment, a place for families to rest and regroup while having access to services and education to reduce the impact of having a serious illness.

Children, young people and families are the centrepiece to our Mission. In delivering that mission, RMHC recognises that all children and young people have the right to be safe, to be heard and to be treated fairly. As such, we have an unwavering commitment to safeguarding children and young people in our programs and ensuring that they are safe.

**In every aspect of conduct, RMHC employees, Board Members and volunteers are expected to prioritise the safety, wellbeing, dignity and best interests of children.** We recognise the privileged position of trust and influence that RMHC has, in interacting with families during times of increased stress and vulnerability.

### Purpose

The RMHC system takes their duty of care to children and young people very seriously. We embrace the well-being, development and growth of all children and young people, and acknowledge their human rights, including their right to have a say in decisions and be taken seriously.

We demonstrate this through maintaining a zero tolerance for any forms of abuse. This is a shared responsibility across all levels of the organisation, and any breach or suspected breach of this policy, or any other Child Safeguarding principles or practices, will be treated very seriously.

### Scope

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).

### Breaches of this Policy

Out of our respect for the safety of children and young people, in the case of employees, Board members and volunteers, any breach, or perceived breach of the SCYP Policy or Framework, will result in immediate removal or suspension of that person or person(s) from RMHC premises and/or

services. An investigation will follow, which could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of any employment or volunteering agreement, and/or reporting to the police as necessary.

Out of our respect for the safety of children and young people, in the case of beneficiaries of our programs, supporters, partners, contractors and external third-party providers, any breach, or perceived breach of the SCYP Policy or Framework, will result in immediate removal or suspension of that person or person(s) from RMHC premises and/or services. An investigation will follow, which could result in termination of services and agreements with RMHC, and/or reporting to the police as necessary.

At all times, RMHC 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 will be provided free of charge, and available 24/7.

## Responsibilities

RMHC Organisational Leaders have specific responsibility under this policy, to act, document and inform relevant parties, as per the SCYP Framework.

RMHC 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.

RMHC Australia CEO – 0418 465 327

RMHC Australia General Manager Corporate Services – 0409 542 509

## Related Policies and Legislation

### Associated Policies

- RMHC Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework
- Suspected Child Abuse Policy
- Supervision of Children Policy
- Social Media Policy
- RMHC Code of Conduct and Ethics
- Eligibility Criteria
- Workplace Health & Safety Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Respectful Workplace Policy

## Legislation

Commonwealth	Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth)
ACT	Children and Young People Act 2008 (ACT)
New South Wales	Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)
Northern Territory	Care and Protection of Children Act 2007 (NT)
Queensland	Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld) Child Protection Reform Amendment Bill 2017 (Qld)
South Australia	Children's Protection Act 1993 (SA)
Tasmania	Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997 (Tas.)
Victoria	Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (Vic.)
Western Australia	Children and Community Services Act 2004 (WA)

## Policy Approval & Version History

Version	Description of changes	Approved by	Effective date	Next Review Date
1.0	Creation of Policy	MLG	15/9/2022	14/9/2024