

# Queenstown Fijian Community Charitable Trust

## *Building Bridges*



## *Child Protection Policy*

## THE NEED

This policy is our Trust's commitment to protect vulnerable children from abuse and neglect through its actions, activities and members. The Queenstown Fijian Community Charitable Trust values child protection very highly as the 'Trust' envisions the children as our future community leaders and members.

In addition the 'Trust' sees the vulnerability of our children in today's life challenges and needs to implement this Child Protection Policy so we can ensure the safety and security of our children and youths.

Reasons for this need could be grasped from the statistics below:

- Tragically, on average, one child dies every five weeks at the hands of those who have responsibility for their care. Most of these children are under five years old, and the largest group of children killed are less than a year old.

*Source: Doolan, M. (2004). Child death by homicide in New Zealand: An examination of incidence and child protection actions. Canterbury University.*

- For the 12 months ending 31 March 2023 there were 69,500 reports of concern relating to children and young people; 37,800 of those reports required assessments or investigations to be carried out. *Source:*  
<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/performance-and-monitoring/quarterly-report/overview/>

- On average there's a child in Starship Hospital once a month with a serious head injury from child abuse that almost invariably has caused brain damage.

*Source:*

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2023/11/starship-doctor-speaks-out-about-child-abuse-in-new-zealand-plea-to-new-government.html>

- The Homicide Report Released 13 May 2019
  - Every 8th homicide victim in New Zealand from 2004 to 31 March 2019 was a child
  - More than two thirds of the victims were aged 2 or under
  - Of the cases where the killer's relationship to the victim was known, 27% were mothers, 24% were fathers, and 17% were de facto partners.

*Source: <https://www.childmatters.org.nz/insights/nz-statistics/>*

- Statistics Review As at March 2021

NZ ranks at 35th out of 41 developed countries for child wellbeing outcomes (UNICEF Innocenti Report)

A child dies every 5 weeks in NZ as a result of family violence (UNICEF Innocenti Report)

*Source: <https://www.childmatters.org.nz/insights/nz-statistics/>*

## **POLICY SUMMARY**

As required by law (Children's Act 2014) the Queenstown Fijian Community Charitable Trust hereby also known as the 'Trust', have written and adopted this policy for safeguarding and protecting our youths and children.

The main aim of this policy is to care and improve the well being of our children and youths.

By our children we refer to (Children's Act 2014, Part 1.5):

- A person below the age of 21
- A person below the age of 21 and receiving care
- A person below the age of 25 and receiving transition support from the Department (part 7 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989).

Our parents, guardians/ Carers and our overall Community members have concerns on the care given to our children while they attend Community activities.

The policy aims to ensure the protection and safety of our children by recognizing their vulnerability. The 'Trust' members must adhere to these policies to ensure a safe environment for our children and youths.

## **CHILD PROTECTION CULTURE**

Our current Coordinators/Carers are made up of Parents from our very close knit Fijian Community members who are not only volunteers but are child centred decision makers. Recruitment for coordinators as well as youth leaders going forward must meet our requirements for our Child Protection Policy.

As per Part 2.14(c) of the Children's Act 2014 the 'Trust' is adopting these policies to promote safety and well being for our youths and children.

These policy requirements for Youth Coordinators and Youth Leader are:

- Confirming Identity, Interview and Obtaining References
- Ongoing training in working with young people
- Appointed through a process of identifying the 'best person' for the role.
- A vote to change the 'Trust' Youth Coordinators once every three(3) years or if a Youth Coordinator requests to step down then a request to be submitted to the Board of Trustees.
- For all activities that children attend, a written consent from parents or carers will be required.
- Each activity has procedures in place (check and balance).

Also to adopt a culture where inappropriate actions are openly challenged by other Coordinators and have a strong reporting line in our Board of Trustee members.

## **REPORTING**

The 'Trust' is adopting the Reporting of child abuse (shown below) as per Part 2.19(b) of the Children's Act 2014 in accordance of section 15 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.

*Any person who believes that a child or young person has been, or is likely to be, harmed, ill-treated, abused, (whether physically, emotionally, or sexually), neglected, or deprived, or who has concerns about the well-being of a child or young person, may report the matter to the chief executive or a constable.*

*Section 15: replaced, on 1 July 2019, by [section 18](#) of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Act 2017 (2017 No 31).*

Therefore any issue of abuse, misconduct or harm must be reported as soon as possible to all the Youth Coordinators or any Board of Trustee including the 'Trust' Chairman and Vice Chairman. Emergency cases are to be reported to the Police or Oranga Tamariki.

## **SAFETY OF CHILDREN & YOUTHS**

Within our 'Trust' organisation the safety of our children and youth members while participating in our Community activities lies with our Youth Coordinators, attending Parents or Board of Trustee members.

The 'Queenstown Fijian Community Charitable Trust' has zero tolerance towards bullying. Our children and young people have a right to feel safe and secure.

As a Community it is important that we listen to children and young people and help them find the support they need. Our cultural background and tradition fosters a belief in dialogue and communication in problem solving. The 'Trust' emphasises that our children participating in our Community activities are provided a safe physical and emotional environment.

The Youth Coordinators will continue to meet and discuss strategies in empowering children and young people to stand up to Bullying and report it. Bullying is unacceptable in any form.

Additional support for children and young people are also available:

- *For support from a trained counsellor free call or text 1737 any time.*
- *Youthline - 0800 376 633. Free text 234 or email [talk@youthline.co.nz](mailto:talk@youthline.co.nz)*
- *Lifeline - 0800 543 354 or Free text 4357 (Help)*

## **KEY INFORMATION**

**Child Protection:** *Activities carried out to ensure that children are safe in cases where there is suspected abuse or neglect or the risk of abuse or neglect.*

**Abuse:** *The harming (whether physically, emotionally or sexually), ill-treatment, neglect or deprivation of any child*

## **CONCLUSION**

The 'Queenstown Fijian Community Charitable Trust' are committed to making the Safety and Wellbeing of children the primary concern with the child at the centre of all decision-making.

We understand that we cannot create the perfect full proof safe environment for our children, we are committed to learning from our weaknesses and continue to strive to improve.

This Child Protection Policy is our commitment towards safeguarding the children and youths for a brighter tomorrow in Tahuna Queenstown.