

Leaders and Adults

Safeguarding YOUNG Fact Sheet



Scouts Australia wants our youth to navigate the world with confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of self-awareness. And at Scouts, we have policies and procedures that ensure all our youth members feel safe and to know what to do if they don't.

Introducing the Safeguarding YOUNG "I Statements"

The "I Statements" are crucial in Scouts as they empower young people to express themselves, set boundaries, and understand appropriate behaviour. By using the "I" perspective, Scouts assert their rights and communicate their feelings, fostering open communication with their peers, leaders or trusted adults. These statements raise awareness about safety, consent, and online behaviour, promoting a positive and inclusive environment. Ultimately, these statements empower Scouts to take an active role in safeguarding themselves and others, fostering trust and confidence within the community.

Joey Scouts (5-8 years)

- I am kind and respectful to my Scout friends in my Patrol, Unit, and Group.
- I know that our bodies are private, and we shouldn't show or look at private parts at Scouts.
- If I see or hear something that makes me feel uncomfortable, I will tell my Leaders or a trusted adult.

Cub Scouts (8-11 years)

- I respect personal boundaries and the personal space of my Scout friends.
- I say 'no' if someone tries to touch me in a way that makes me uncomfortable, even if it's a friend.
- If something online seems strange or makes me feel weird, I will immediately tell a trusted adult.
- I understand that it's important to keep personal information, like my full name and address, private and not share it online.

Scouts (11-14 years)

- I respect the personal space and boundaries of my fellow Patrol members and all Scouts, both online and during Scout activities.
- I understand that healthy relationships mean treating others with respect, setting boundaries, and seeking help if I feel unsafe or uncomfortable.
- I speak up if I see any behaviour that is not respectful towards myself or others, both online and within our Scout community.
- I am careful about sharing personal information online, and I know how to adjust privacy settings to protect myself and my fellow Scouts.
- I think critically about the information I find online, considering if it's reliable and how it might affect myself and others.

Venturer Scouts (14-18 years)

- I seek and respect the consent and personal boundaries of my fellow Patrol members and all Scouts, both online and in person.
- I understand that healthy relationships include recognising and reporting any signs of manipulation, control, or pressure in interactions with others.
- I report any signs of inappropriate behaviour towards myself or others to my Leaders or trusted adults.
- I protect my online presence by being mindful of what I share and being aware of potential risks and scams.
- I evaluate online information critically, considering its reliability and how it might impact myself and others.



Rover Scouts (18-25 years)

- I engage in open and honest communication with my fellow Unit members and other Scouts, respecting consent, boundaries, and expectations in our relationships, both online and in person.
- I agree that personal relationships are formed on consent, which is an ongoing and enthusiastic mutual agreement between all parties involved.
- I educate myself about online safety, including privacy settings, cyberbullying, and responsible sharing of personal information, to create a positive digital environment within our Scout community.
- I support and stand up for my fellow Scouts, reporting any instances of inappropriate behaviour or grooming to adult Leaders or trusted Commissioners.
- I promote a positive online culture by respecting others, reporting harmful content, and standing against cyberbullying, ensuring a safe and inclusive online space for all Scouts in our Group.
- I understand that younger Scouts may see me as a trusted adult, and I know how to respond to their concerns.

Some tips on talking about the “I Statements”

Using the “I Statements” effectively involves incorporating them into discussions and activities in a way that promotes understanding, empowerment, and open communication among young people. The “I Statements” can be found in every Introduction to Section and should be facilitated by an appropriate adult member and two-deep leadership.

Remember that the ultimate goal is to foster a culture of safety, respect, and open communication within the Scouts community. By using the “I Statements” effectively, you help young people feel valued, heard, and empowered in their journey through Scouts and beyond.

Providing Support as a Trusted Adult

Responding empathetically to a disclosure is crucial to creating a supportive environment. To do so, actively listen with genuine interest, remaining calm and non-judgmental. Assure the young person that they are safe and that you are there to support them. Validate their feelings, avoiding assumptions or probing for details. Instead, ask open-ended questions to encourage further sharing. Express gratitude for their trust, offer support and resources if needed, and follow up with them to show ongoing care and concern. Your empathetic response can make a significant difference in their well-being and trust in seeking help or sharing their experiences in the future.

You will also need to:

- Remain calm and reassure them that they did the right thing by speaking up.
- Avoid asking leading questions or pressing for details.
- Let them know that you will help and support them by involving the appropriate adults or authorities.
- Report the disclosure to your Group Leader, or a trusted Commissioner immediately and follow your Branch Child Protection Policy.
- Seek support for yourself and look after you.
- Always prioritise the safety and wellbeing of our youth and be vigilant in ensuring a safe and secure environment for everyone

Some Useful Contacts

- Police/Ambulance/Fire - 000
- Child Wise Helpline - 1800 99 10 99
- Australian Federal Police - (02) 6223 3000
- Parentline - 13 22 89
- Kids Helpline - 1800 551 800
- Life Line - 13 11 14

