

Information Bulletin – Use of Form 3

In 2015 the Zone Insurance & Protection Committee (ZIPC) embarked on a Youth Protection education program in collaboration with our Brokers, Aon Risk Solutions, for DGsE, DGsN, DIOs and DYPOs on an annual basis.

This initiative has been endorsed by RI Director Noel Trevaskis and RI Supervisor Andrew Best and has now become a mandatory requirement in Australia.

The Rotary International Code of policies 41.070.18. state that is **mandatory** for YEP volunteers to provide a screening declaration (Form3). From a risk management point of view there can be no discrimination between Rotary programs involving youths/students by virtue of a program's name, therefore best practice demands a consistent approach to the protection of young people entrusted to our care. Protection for a RYLA or RYPEN student for example should be no different to that required for a YEP student.

Similarly, there should be no difference to the screening procedures of adults participating as Volunteers (as defined) in any Youth Program.

In addition to RI requirements, it is the task of the ZIPC to set national guidelines in accordance with one of the findings of the recently completed Royal Commission into the Abuse of Children, which was to ensure consistency in procedures.

Similarly, our insurers who provide cover for Molestation/Sexual Abuse expect consistency in respect of Youth Program risk management procedures.

In the event of a claim arising from sexual abuse or harassment in any Rotary Youth Program, one of the first things Rotary International and our Insurers might require are copies of the Volunteer Declarations confirming that the adult participants had been screened.

This then raises perhaps one of the most misunderstood protection requirements, which is who should be screened, and it is only Volunteers (as defined below) that are required to provide a WWC Check and a Form 3

Definition:

A Volunteer is any adult involved with Rotary Youth Program activities that has direct interactions either supervised or unsupervised with youths/students.

In most Clubs Volunteers might be limited to:

Youth Services Chair
Club Student Counsellor
Club Protection Officer
Host Families

All other Club members would be deemed "Responsible Adults" and are not required to be screened.

Definition:

A Responsible Adult is any adult who, in a family or group situation for a short period of time, is responsible for caring for a youth/students

Anyone has the right not to sign a Form 3 if they so wish, understanding that they are then excluded from participating as a **Volunteer** in a Rotary Youth Program, but may still participate as a **Responsible Adult**.

Resources:

- Rotary Code of Policies
- 775EN16 - Rotary Youth Protection Guide
- E/Learning - Protecting Youth Program Participants
- Rotary Australia Youth Protection Summary