

# WS&LSC Nipper parent/guardian handbook

Nipper season 2023-24







Nipper Education Programs (Nippers) are a water safety, skills and education program that introduces children aged 5 to 14 years to lifesaving. The program is a key initiative of the lifesaving movement, and its continuous success is of vital importance to the growth and sustainability of Victorian lifesaving clubs.

Nippers is delivered at lifesaving clubs across Victoria throughout the summer months in a safe, fun, organised and welcoming environment. It assists to build children's confidence, knowledge, and skills on how to be safe around the water and at the beach, as well as the development of skills to become a future lifesaver.

Nippers caters for all manners of experience, skill levels and varying learning abilities of participants, with an emphasis on fun and education, regardless of development stages to ensure all experiences are positive.

**Williamstown Swimming & Life Saving Club (WS&LSC) and Life Saving Victoria (LSV) acknowledges the Bunurong People of the Kulin Nation on which this guide was written and the many Traditional Owners where the Lifesaving Education programs are delivered. We recognise the significant cultural links many of the waterways and land used for water safety and lifesaving education have and encourage all our Partners to work closely with their local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities to provide inclusive programs. We pay our respects to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders, including their Elders, past, present, and emerging.**



Image: Painting by Nathan Patterson, a proud Wagiman man. The painting is a tribute to both the traditional custodians of the land and the role lifesaving plays in bringing together and protecting the Victorian community.

# Welcome



The 2022/23 Summer of Nippers was one to remember for WS&LSC with 355 Nippers and 17 Starfish Nippers being the biggest enrollment of the Bayside Club in Victoria that season. We hope to continue to build on that success this season and will be starting the season with The Welcome to Country Smoking Ceremony and will be holding the Age Champs Competition Day towards the end of the season. We are also excited that this season will be the first time we host a Starfish Carnival.

The success of the Nipper and Starfish Nippers program depends on the volunteers and sponsors from the community. Without members of the club volunteering to be Age Managers, Mentors, Water Safety, BBQ co-ordinators then we would not be able to train our lifeguards of the future and keep our beaches safe for future generations. Thank you in advance to all the volunteers who will make this season a success. If you are interested in volunteering any effort in a number of capacities would be welcome, please reach out to [juniors@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:juniors@williamstownslsc.org.au) or [starfish@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:starfish@williamstownslsc.org.au).

Thank you for the generous support of our Nippers program sponsors Gunn & Co Real Estate, Orbit Logistics, Jim's Storage Williamstown and The Inside Project. We are grateful for this support which allows us to buy the equipment for our Nippers.

Enrolments for Nippers are now open and we look forward to seeing the improvement and progression from our Nippers in the season ahead as well as meeting new Nippers.

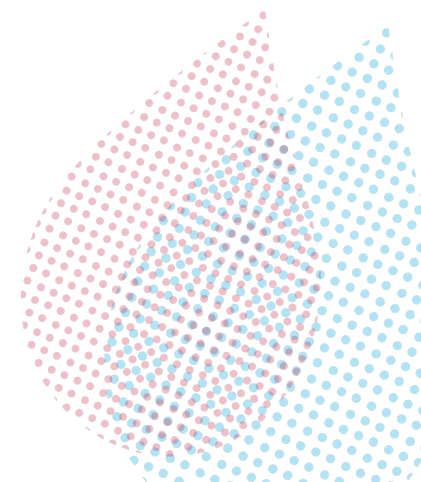
Thank you for supporting the Williamstown Swimming & Life Saving Club together with Life Saving Victoria we look forward to seeing you on the beach.

JUNIOR COORDINATOR | Laura Innes | [juniors@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:juniors@williamstownslsc.org.au)

STARFISH COORDINATOR | Veronica Treloar [starfish@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:starfish@williamstownslsc.org.au)

NIPPERS ADMINISTRATOR | Ingrid Magtengaard | [info@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:info@williamstownslsc.org.au)

STARFISH ADMINISTRATOR | Bronwyn Rowleson [starfish@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:starfish@williamstownslsc.org.au)





## About Lifesaving

The primary mission of Victorian lifesaving clubs is to provide a safe and enjoyable aquatic experience for all visitors to our beaches. Over the summer period lifesaving clubs and lifeguards provide beach patrols at over 60 Victorian beaches on weekends and public holidays.

Victoria's coastline and inland waterways are unique and their recreational opportunities endless. Life Saving Victoria is keen to ensure that all visitors are aware of their own abilities and the potential dangers at the beach. Lifesaving clubs train volunteer lifesavers in aquatic rescue and resuscitation techniques as well as offering water safety education to the general beach going public.

Since the early 1900's lifesaving clubs have been an integral part of Australia's coastal and inland waterways, with volunteers providing education and training in lifesaving activities, as well as providing the iconic 'swim between the red and yellow flags' patrolled areas. Lifesaving clubs harness the support of local communities and use a network of support services such as the Westpac Lifesaver Rescue Helicopter and Drone Service, Rescue Watercraft and Marine Search and Rescue boats to ensure the safety of the nation's waterway users.

## Life Saving Victoria

Life Saving Victoria (est. 2002) is an initiative of the Royal Life Saving Society Australia Victoria Branch (est. 1904) and Surf Life Saving Victoria (est. 1947). Operating as a social enterprise, we are an independent company that is limited by guarantee. Life Saving Victoria is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and has Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status with the Australian Taxation Office. Life Saving Victoria's is forging new lifesaving and water safety initiatives while respecting the proud traditions and programs of Royal Life Saving and Surf Life Saving National organisations.

### Our Mission

Life Saving Victoria's mission is to prevent aquatic related death and injury in all Victorian communities and has the vision that all Victorians will learn water safety, swimming and resuscitation and be provided with safe aquatic environments and venues.

### Our Vision

All Victorians will enjoy our aquatic environment after learning water safety, swimming, and resuscitation.





## Introduction to the Nippers education program

The vision for Nippers is to provide a safe and friendly environment where both nippers and parents can learn and enhance their knowledge about lifesaving and to prepare our Nippers to be future patrolling members.

There are 12,000+ Nippers here in Victoria. Nippers start learning about surf and inland waterway awareness, and safety through the Nipper Education Program. They are also participating in board paddling, swimming, running, wading and other activities and games, that will assist Nippers to become future lifesavers.

Surf awareness and education is a primary aim of the program. Children are taught from the youngest age how to respect and read the surf and to use it to their advantage. This is done in an environment of fun, healthy lifestyle and camaraderie which is unique to lifesaving.

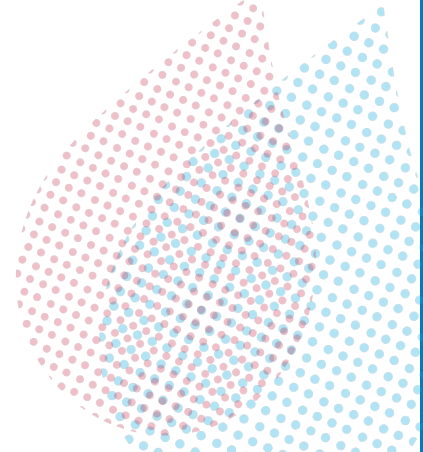
Life Saving Victoria aims to encourage all children to achieve, do their best and develop to their full potential, whilst learning new skills and having fun. We encourage participation in all activities.

## Nippers Starfish education program

The Starfish Nipper Program is a modified Nippers program for children with special needs, which is run in conjunction with the age group nipper program. This program caters for children and young adults from 6 years of age. The special needs spectrum includes children with Autism, Attention Deficit Disorder, Down Syndrome, Asperger's Syndrome and physical and intellectual disabilities.

Our program caters for a diverse group of young people and makes WSLSC one of a handful of clubs in the country that has adopted this amazing initiative. The program includes beach games, beach flags, water familiarisation and surf safety.

Mentors are needed to support this program, if you are interested please email [starfish@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:starfish@williamstownslsc.org.au).







## Times & Dates

- Closing date for Nippers Applications | 27 October 2023
- Nippers and Starfish Nippers Parent Information session | 15 October 2023 time 2pm
- Nippers Age Managers and Age Manager Assistant and Starfish Mentors Information session | 15 October 2023 time 3pm
- Sunday Morning Nipper Sessions | 8:30am Registration | 8:45 to approx 10:00am Nippers Program

November 12 | 19 | 26

December 3 | 10 | 17

January 21 | 28

February 4 | 11 | 18 | 25

Nipper Season Celebration BBQ & Award Presentation will be held following 25 February session| 10:00 to 11:30am

- Sunday Morning Starfish Nipper Sessions | 9:15am Registration | 09:30 to approx 10:30am Starfish Nippers Program

November 12 | 19 | 26

December 3 | 10 | 17

January 21 | 28

February 4 | 11 | 18 | 25

- WS&LSC & Starfish Carnival | 4 February 2024

Please note: All sessions are subject to weather conditions and will proceed, even if conditions aren't that great. They will be modified for a safe and rewarding session. We will keep you informed via our Team App. Some sessions times may start earlier or end later due to special events but we'll notify you in advance.

## Location & Parking

Join us at the iconic Williamstown Beach located next to Gloucester Reserve Esplanade Williamstown with public parking spaces behind the club house.

Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the session start time

Find your Nipper's age group flag on the beach

- Sign in. The Nippers attendance lists will be laid out based on Age Group. This is essential to ensure your Nipper receives their Surf Education Award at the completion of the season.
- After signing in, you'll receive a coloured age group cap from the basket
- Find your Nipper's Age Group flag on the beach. Your Age Manager will be there waiting to take your Nipper for their session.
- At the sessions end, return your age group cap to the basket.
- Hang around for a sausage sizzle before you head home!



## Team App

WS&LSCs' primary method of communication with our Members and Nipper Community, is via Team App.

It is important that you sign up to and familiarize yourselves with WS&LSCs' Team App. The Club will inform Nippers' families of any news, special events, documents, newsletters and any change in the program via Team App. This is particularly important in the event of a cancellation notice due to dangerous weather conditions on the same day.

All sessions are subject to weather conditions; activities will be modified to ensure safe participation, even if conditions aren't that great, however if they are dangerous a session will be cancelled. These conditions may include:

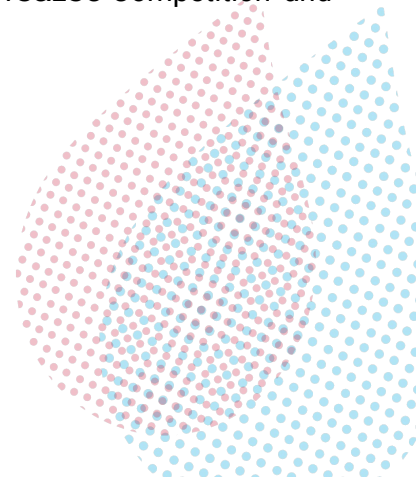
- Strong Winds
- Rough or dangerous water conditions
- Poor water quality
- Extreme Temperatures
- Electrical Storms

We will notify our Nipper community as early as possible via Team App.

Team App is a closed app to the public. Only members (who have been approved by WS&LSC) can access the App's information.

To get the Team App on your smartphone download from the App Store or Google Play and either sign in (new members) or log in (existing account). You can also access on your desktop at [www.teamapp.com](http://www.teamapp.com) | [Download App here](#) .

Please search for 'WS&LSC' and request access to Nippers and Member. For Nippers who compete for WS&LSC please search for 'WS&LSC Competition' and request access to Junior Comp If you have any issues with Team App please refer to the FAQs <https://www.teamapp.com/faqs>



## Staying safe

We are asking all parents / carers to support us to stay safe by:

- Staying at home if you or your child have any COVID-19 symptoms or are unwell
- Practicing good hygiene
- Going directly to your allocated group areas
- Bringing your own sunscreen, water bottles and towels to avoid sharing
- Adopt an 'arrive, participate, and leave' approach – get ready and shower at home. We are committed to keeping all members of the club safe.

## Parent involvement - How can I get involved?


Lifesaving is a fantastic community organisation to be a part of, offering opportunities for the whole family to be involved in programs from grassroots to competition level. Volunteers are vital as Nippers relies on the support of its members & parent helpers; no lifesaving knowledge is necessary as you will learn alongside your Nipper. This may include:

- Beach sweep prior to the session
- Beach set up & pack up
- Assisting with beach activities
- Rinsing down the boards after the session
- Becoming a qualified Age Manager
- Becoming a qualified water safety officer
- Assisting with the administration
- Running the BBQ

**Please note: a Nipper Parent/Guardian is required to be on the beach at all times, whilst the program is running.**





Role	Overview	Pre-requisites
<p data-bbox="185 515 360 547">Age Manager</p> 	<p data-bbox="468 563 1211 794">An Age Manager has the overall responsibility of a Nipper Age Group and an introduction role to support the running of the program. They are responsible for facilitating the development of surf lifesaving skills and for the overall safety and wellbeing of their age group.</p> <p data-bbox="468 863 1211 1042">Age Managers are required to complete an online <b>or</b> face to face course, child safe awareness course and then complete 2 practical sessions prior to gaining accreditation.</p> <p data-bbox="468 1110 1137 1190"><a href="#">Click here for instructions of how to access the Age Manager Online course.</a></p> <p data-bbox="468 1259 1151 1390"><a href="#">Click here for instructions of how to access the Safeguarding Children and Young People Awareness Course</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1312 539 1787 571">• No lifesaving experience necessary</li> <li data-bbox="1312 639 1592 671">• Be 18 years or older</li> <li data-bbox="1312 740 1895 772">• Be a financial member of a Life Saving Club</li> <li data-bbox="1312 841 1955 920">• Hold a current Working with Children Check with details recorded in SurfGuard</li> <li data-bbox="1312 989 1984 1021">• Completed the online child safe awareness course</li> <li data-bbox="1312 1090 2000 1169">• Completed the online or face to face Age Managers Course</li> <li data-bbox="1312 1238 2024 1318">• Undertake a minimum of two on-the-beach mentoring sessions with an Age Manager Mentor</li> </ul>



Age Manager Assistant	The age manager assistant award is to formally recognise younger members aged 13-17 yrs who help with nippers and making sure they have the necessary skills to assist with facilitation. Age manger assistants can support age managers with education or coaching elements. The age manager assistant award allows age manager assistants an option to complete their CPR, Radio Operators Certificate or First Aid Certificate with the support and guidance of their mentor/club.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be assigned an over 18 qualified Age Manager as mentor by the club.</li><li>• Must create their own individual SLISA Members Area Account.</li><li>• Complete the online observers award via SLISA Member Area.</li><li>• Complete 2 on the beach training sessions with Age Manager Mentor</li><li>• Attend an online Age Manager Assistant Course with LSV</li></ul>
Water Safety	Water safety requirements are 1:5 therefore the number of water safety personnel will determine the number of nippers who are able to enter the water at any one time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bronze Medallion or SRC</li><li>• Be a financial member of a Life Saving Club</li><li>• Hold a current Working with Children Check with details recorded in SurfGuard</li><li>• Complete the online child safe awareness course</li></ul>
BBQ	Parents who cook the BBQ for post nipper sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hold a current Working with Children Check with details recorded in SurfGuard</li></ul>
Nipper Admin Assistance	Assisting the Nippers Coordinator with administration of the Nippers program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hold a current Working with Children Check with details recorded in SurfGuard</li></ul>

# What to expect from Nippers Education Program

The main aims of the Nippers Education Program are to:

- Develop surf and inland waterway awareness.
- Increase confidence and skills in beach related activities.
- Instill and re-enforce SunSmart philosophies.
- Encourage enjoyable and healthy participation.
- Promote a positive non-threatening environment.
- Meet new friends.

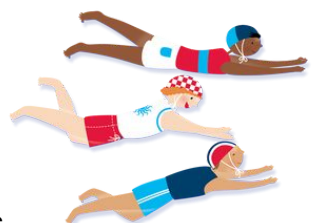


## What your Nipper(s) will learn

Your Nipper(s) will learn a number of new skills on the beach and in the water, as well as key education areas and water safety

## Nipper skills

Nipper skills builds progressively on skill development from U6-U13 in beach, water and lifesaving activities. The activities are designed to provide Nippers the skills to be safe around open water and prepare them to complete their Surf Rescue Certificate (SRC).

Beach Activities	Water Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Beach Sprints</li><li>• Beach Relay</li><li>• Beach Run</li><li>• Beach Flags</li><li>• Nipper Games</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wading</li><li>• Dolphin Diving</li><li>• Surf Race</li><li>• Boards</li><li>• Aquacameron - U8+</li><li>• Run-Swim-Run - U8+</li><li>• Board Relay - U10+</li><li>• Ironman/Ironwoman - U11+</li><li>• Board Rescue - U12+</li><li>• Tube Rescue - U12+</li></ul>



# Nipper education

Nipper Education progressively builds on knowledge development from U6 - U13. Lessons are designed to educate Nippers to be safe around the open water environment and provide basic knowledge to prepare them to complete their Surf Rescue Certificate.

Topics include:

- Introduction to Lifesaving
- Personal Safety Network
- Know the Beach
- Our Beach Environment
- Eat, Drink and Exercise
- Play It Safe in the Water
- First Aid
- Becoming a Lifesaver



## What is required to participate in Nippers

All participants that wish to be part of the Nippers Education Program must:

- Be a financial club member for the current season
- [Click here to view an online user guide of how to join a club](#) (or insert your own club instructions)
- [Click here to view how to renew your club membership](#) (or insert your own club instructions)
- Be 5 – 13 years of age by midnight on September 30, note once a Nipper turns 5 in the season, they can join the U6 group.
- Stay in designated age group, even if their birthday occurs during the season
- Complete a Preliminary Swim Evaluation prior to commencing Nipper activities in the water. Theses can be completed either by:
  - Marked by a swim teacher prior to the season. [Click here for the preliminary form that their swimming instructor must use.](#)
  - U8-U13 only Club run session 14 October 2023 2pm at Bayfit Leisure Centre, 257 Mason Street, Altona North. RSVP via Team App
  - U8-U13 only Club run session) 22 October 2023 2pm at Bayfit Leisure Centre, 257 Mason Street, Altona North. RSVP via Team App
  - LSV run session 28 October 2023 at MSAC. [Click here to register for the LSV session](#)
- During aquatic activity, wear your WS&LSC standardised high-visibility rashie and coloured cap for easy identification above the water surface

**PLEASE NOTE:** Nippers who have not completed their prelim swim assessments are not permitted to participate in water activities.

Please forward forms signed off by swimming instructors to [info@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:info@williamstownslsc.org.au)

## Preliminary swim evaluations

Being able to swim competently is an integral part of making children safe at the beach as well as allowing them to actively participate and enjoy lifesaving activities.



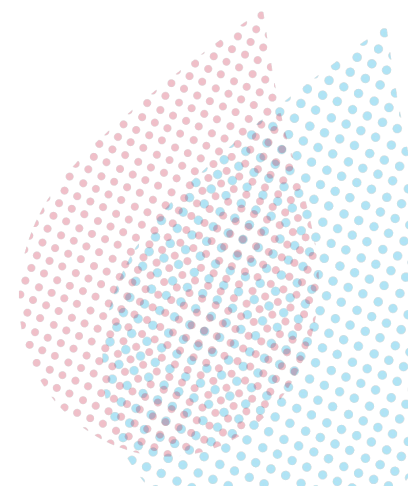
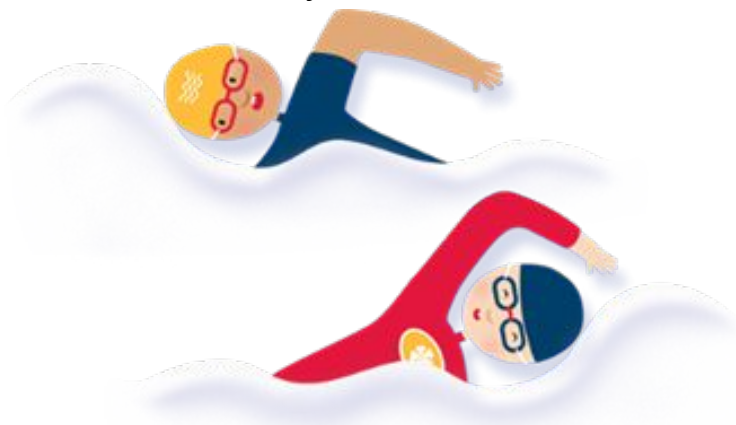
We do recognise that swimming in the ocean is a new experience for many children and that even competent pool swimmers can find this challenging at first. Our aim is to encourage children and to help develop their confidence and skills swimming in the ocean, as well as provide surf and inland waterway education.

Preliminary swim evaluations are a **risk management procedure** that is in place to ensure nippers are fit and able to meet the minimum requirements for safety of the nipper program. The evaluations consist of floatation, submersion & propulsion.

These will be completed at the beginning of the program so we can determine how many Nippers can go in the water at once and if anyone will need extra support in the water activities.

Should your child not meet the minimum requirements then one-on-one water safety will be provided (if there is sufficient number of water safety available), otherwise your child can participate in land-based activities only. We will work with your child to meet the minimum requirements.

**Please note: Nippers is not a learn-to-swim program. We strongly encourage you to enrol your children in “learn to swim” classes depending on their current ability.**



## Preliminary swim evaluation requirements



Age Group	Flotation	Submersion	Propulsion
Under 6	Back or front float for a minimum of 5 seconds, recover to stand.	Submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	From standing position in waist deep water, perform a front glide (1-2 metres) & recover to stand.
Under 7	Back or front float for a minimum of 10 seconds, recover to stand.		From standing position in waist deep water, perform a front glide (2-3 metres) & recover to stand.
Under 8	Back or front float for a minimum of 15 seconds, recover to stand.		Swim on front any stroke (distance 20 metres) followed by swim underwater (distance 2-3 metres).
Under 9	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or any stroke sculling for a minimum of 1 minute.	Submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Swim on front through water any stroke for 25 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or back sculling for minimum 10 metres.
Under 10			Swim on front through water any stroke for 25 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or back sculling for minimum 25 metres.
Under 11	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or any stroke sculling for minimum of 2 minutes.	Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, recover to surface, submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Swim on front through water any stroke for 25 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke and/or back sculling for minimum 50 metres.
Under 12	Front to back float or back to front float – 5 seconds each side. Tread water and/or any stroke sculling for minimum 3 minutes.	Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, recover to surface, submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Swim on front any stroke for 75 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 50 metres.
Under 13			Swim on front any stroke for 100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 50 metres.
Under 14		Submerge to perform forward or backward roll/somersault underwater, do not recover to surface, submerge to touch the bottom with hands.	Swim on front any stroke for 100 metres followed by survival stroke(s) breaststroke and/or sidestroke for minimum 100 metres.



## Nipper age groups - season 2023/24



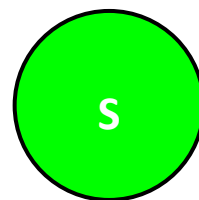
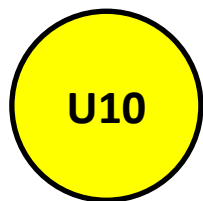
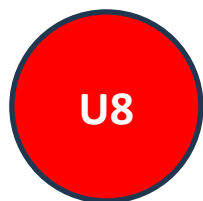
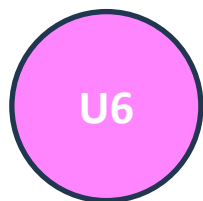
Age Groups	Date Ranges	Surf Education Award
<b>U6</b>	1/10/2017 – 30/09/2018	Surf Play One
<b>U7</b>	1/10/2016 – 30/09/2017	Surf Play Two
<b>U8</b>	1/10/2015 – 30/09/2016	Surf Aware One
<b>U9</b>	1/10/2014 – 30/09/2015	Surf Aware Two
<b>U10</b>	1/10/2013 – 30/09/2014	Surf Safe One
<b>U11</b>	1/10/2012 – 30/09/2013	Surf Safe Two
<b>U12</b>	1/10/2011 – 30/09/2012	Surf Smart One
<b>U13</b>	1/10/2010 – 30/09/2011	Surf Smart Two
<b>U14</b>	1/10/2009 – 30/09/2010	SRC

### Note: Age Group

- A child cannot be classed as a member until they turn 5 years old (e.g., if a child turns 5 on 1 November, they cannot partake in any activities until that date)
- Child who turns 5 after 30 September in the current season will be required to join as an U6, for the current and following season.

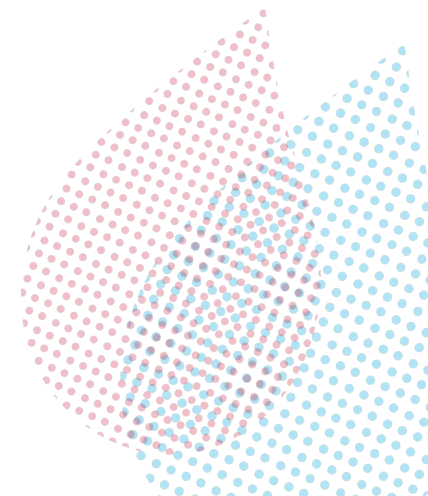


## Nipper age groups – colour caps

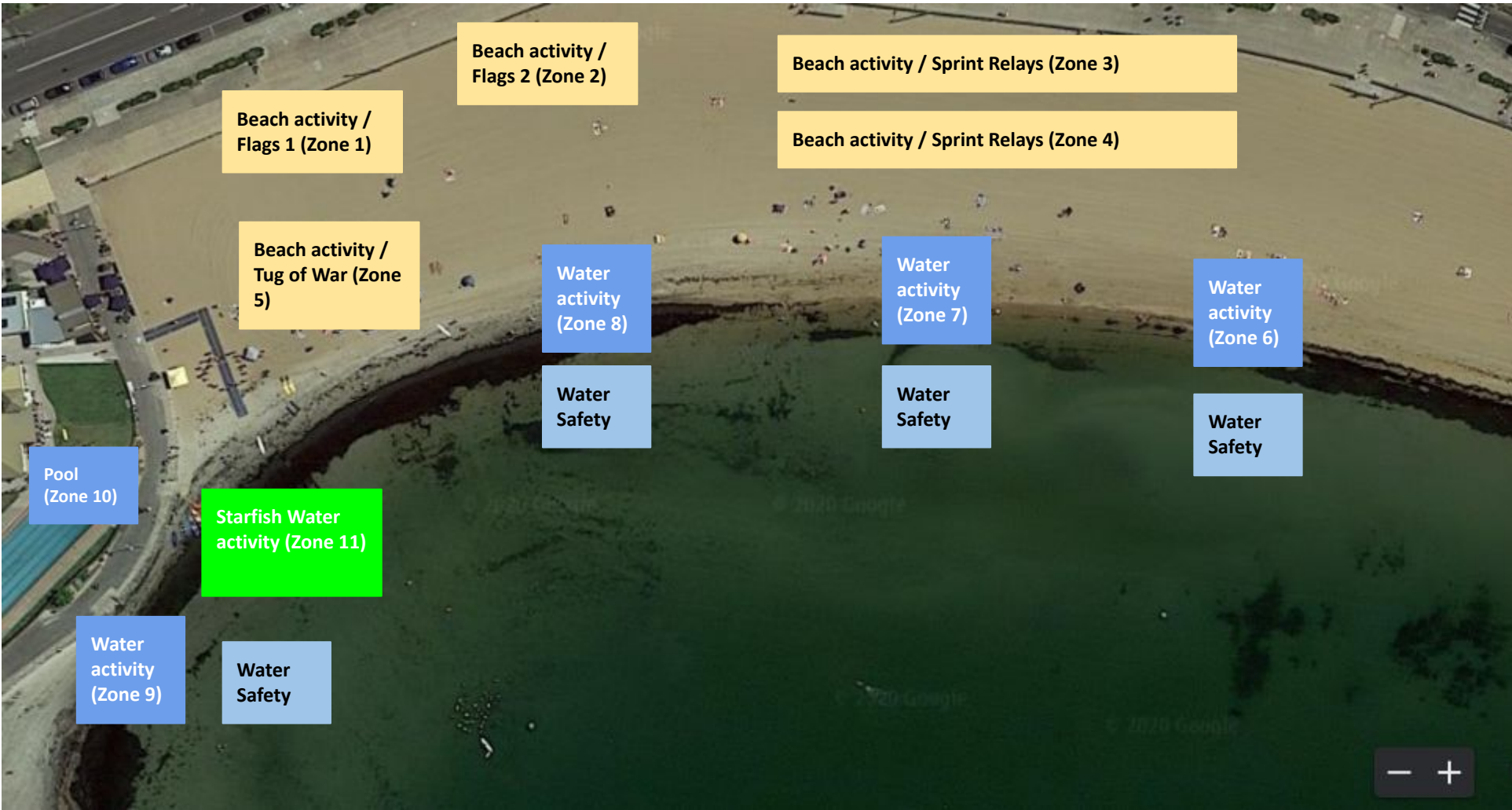


### Note: Age Group

- Each coloured cap represents Nippers age group. They will be available for collection ready for your session and they are to be returned at the end.
- We understand every Child has their own skill levels, experience and ability however every Nipper stays within their age level.



# Nipper beach set up





## Uniform requirements

Nippers must wear the club/age group cap whilst the Nipper Education Program is running. These will be handed out at the beginning of each Session and returned to your Age Manager, ready for the coming week.

The use of high visibility rashies is mandatory for all open water-based activities in the junior program. This includes swims, board paddling and wading. These will be handed out at the start of the season.



## WS&LSC Gear

A club rash vest and t-shirt will be provided to each Nipper prior to the season.

Pick up details will be provided via Team app closer to the start of the season.

A wide range of club clothing and swimwear can also be purchased [HERE](#)

WS&LSC Shop [Here](#)

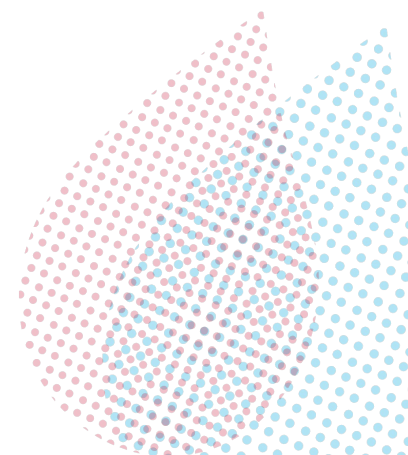


## What to bring to each session

Your child will need to have the following items each week:

- Bathers
- Long sleeve rash vest or protective top
- Wide brim or bucket style hat or legionnaire style cap
- Sun block (at least SPF 30+)
- Goggles
- Towel
- Water bottle (filled with water)
- Dry clothes for after nipper program session (suggested only)

Please label all belongings clearly and don't forget to pack your SMILE!



# Sun safety

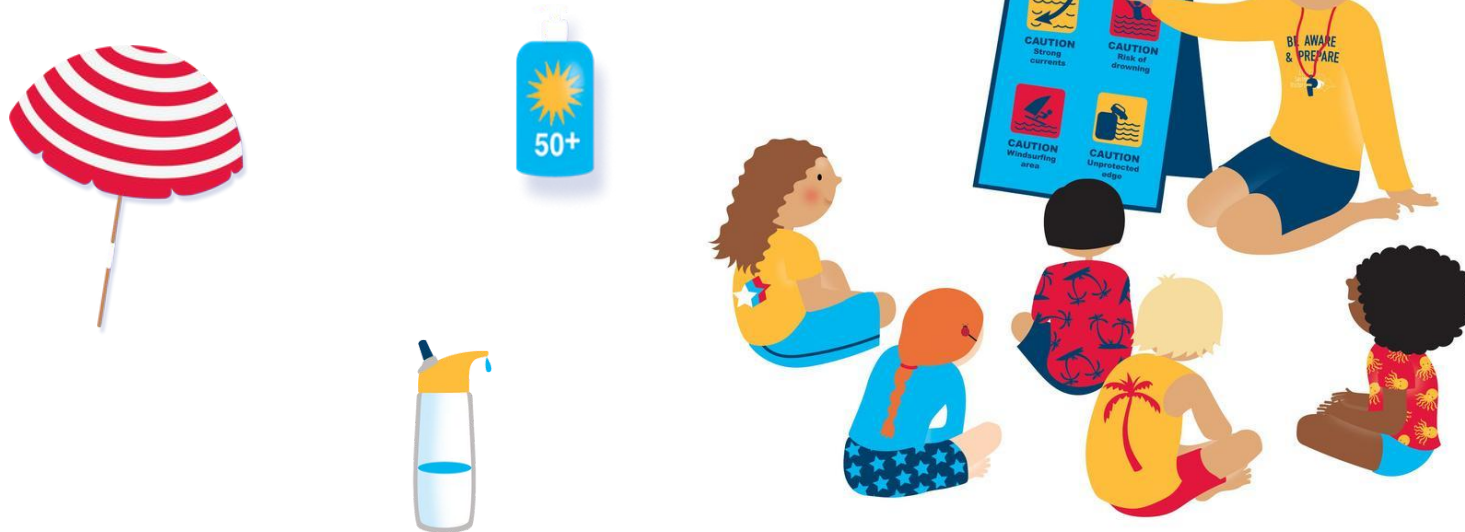


We aim to teach children about all aspects of waterways/beach safety, including sun protection. We encourage all participants and spectators to follow these procedures:

1. **Slip** on sun-protective clothing
2. **Slop** on SPF30 (or higher) broad-spectrum water-resistant sunscreen at least 20 minutes before going outdoors and re-apply every two hours
3. **Slap** on a broad-brimmed hat that protects your face, head, neck and ears
4. **Seek** shade
5. **Slide** on sunglasses
6. **Sip** on water

Remember to think UV is not heat, the UV level can be as high on a cold or cloudy day as it is when it is a hot day. The free SunSmart app tells you when sun protection is recommended for your location and shows the current UV levels.

Source <https://www.cancervic.org.au/preventing-cancer/be-sunsmart>



## Junior sport competition



Sport competition began as and continues to be a way for our lifesavers to maintain the skills and physical abilities required to be a lifesaver. There are a wide range of opportunities available for members interested in participating in lifesaving sport.

The skills learned in the Nipper program are based on key lifesaving skills and many will be part of competition events. There are a number of run throughout the season for nippers to participate in.

From the age of 8 (Under 9), junior members can begin to compete in swimming and board events at junior carnivals. To ensure that all juniors have the ability, strength and fitness required to complete the course they must pass the competition skills evaluation specific for their age group, as determined by SLISA.

## Surf Sports competition

Nippers at WS&LSC is a fantastic pathway to Surf Sports where our competition Nippers get to compete against Nippers representing Clubs throughout Victoria. Nippers from under 9 up to under 13 are eligible to participate on completion of an age specific swim skills evaluation. This is in addition to the Nippers Preliminary Swim Assessment as the swimming requirements are more advanced for competition.

The Aquatic sports carnival calendar can be found [2023-2024 LSV Aquatic Sports Carnival Calendar](#)

A carnival entry fee is applicable per carnival. The fee must be paid to the Club prior to each carnival and can be made via the store on the Team App. This fee is passed wholly to Life SAVING Victoria.



If you are interested in junior sport competition, please contact Sam Sonogo | [competitions@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:competitions@williamstownslsc.org.au)



# Junior/youth opportunities with life saving victoria



## **U13 Development Camp (12-13)**

The U13 Development Camp is an opportunity for youth members to develop their interpersonal skills, be introduced to lifesaving pathways and opportunities, and to network with likeminded lifesavers from across the state over a 3 day live in camp.



## **U15 Development Camp (14-15)**

The U15 Camp is an opportunity for youth members to develop their leadership, interpersonal and teamwork skills while also broadening their understanding of lifesaving pathways and opportunities. Participants will have the opportunity to learn, share and network with likeminded lifesavers from across the state over a 3 day live in camp.



## **U18 Development Camp (16-17)**

The U18 Leadership Development Camp is an opportunity for youth members to develop and enhance their leadership and lifesaving skills, to support their progress through their lifesaving journey.

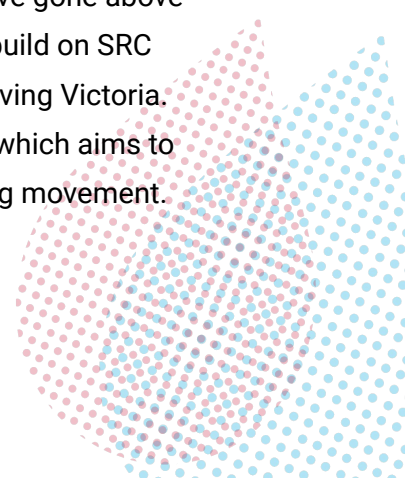
Participants will have the chance to learn about their leadership style and building effective teams through fun practical activities. They will also have the opportunity to develop lifesaving, mentoring and coaching skills to utilise back at their club through on beach scenario-based training.



## **Champion Junior Lifesaver Development Day**

The Champion Junior Lifesaver Development Day is a reward and recognition day for youth members that have gone above and beyond within their respected clubs. It is an opportunity to come together with like-minded members to build on SRC skills, participate in development workshops and explore the different services and pathways through Life Saving Victoria.

Members nominated for the day will be in the running for the Mike Martin Champion Junior Lifesaver award, which aims to recognise and celebrate the achievements and commitment of our youth members to their club and lifesaving movement.



# Junior/youth opportunities with Life Saving Victoria | LSVj



## LSVj

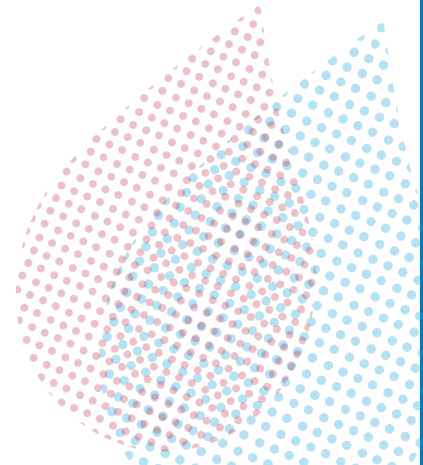
Life Saving Victoria Junior (LSVj) Advisory Committee was created from the winning 2019 Youth Symposium Innovation Challenge concept, to create a committee who would be a voice and help to recognise the needs of their fellow youth members. **The LSVj Advisory Committee (14-18yrs)** is responsible for representing youth member views, values and ideas. It aids as a method for engaging youth members and provides another platform for youth development and leadership. The LSVj Advisory Committee hopes to play a significant role in shaping the future of lifesaving for the next generation of lifesavers.

Working with the LSVj Advisory Committee are the team of LSVj Club Representatives, who are the youth members nominated to represent their Life Saving Club's youth views and ideas.

## LSVj Youth Symposium

The Symposium will bring together youth members from across Victoria for a day of inspiration, fun, and empowerment through delivery of keynote speakers, leadership development activities and a platform to discuss the big issues facing our youth members.

The day promises to enrich, challenge, and facilitate our leaders of tomorrow with valuable leadership, wellbeing strategies and communication skills.



## Safety

Safety is our first priority for all activities. Safety extends to on the beach and in the water and also gives consideration to the protection of all children



## Medical/health and wellbeing information

WS&LSC promotes an inclusive environment and welcomes all participants. We will endeavor to work to provide an appropriate program to all wishing to participate in Nippers. Please notify the director of Junior Activities/Junior Coordinator of any medical/health conditions or special needs to ensure this information is recorded at the time of your membership registration and inform the Age Manager. Laura Innes [juniors@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:juniors@williamstownslsc.org.au)

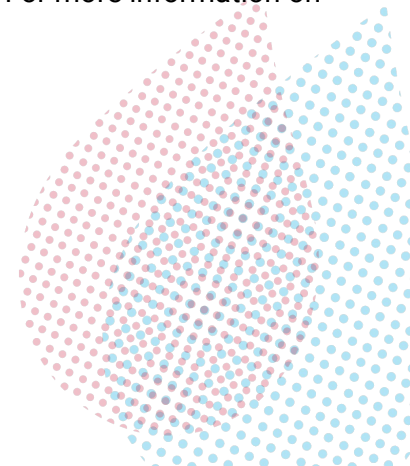
## Safeguarding children and young people

WS&LSC and LSV takes seriously its responsibility to deliver a safe, fair and inclusive environment for Children & Young People involved in lifesaving. Williamstown Swimming & Life Saving Club together with Life Saving Victoria is committed to the Safeguarding of Children and Young People (SCYP) and acknowledges a safeguarding organisation doesn't just happen; it requires conscious action to protect children from harm.

It is imperative that we provide a safe and supportive environment for children and young people, that focus' on fun, education and building the confidence of our people through positive learning and development.

Our core values include being open, welcome and inclusive and building stronger and safer communities for everyone. LSV empowers and expects all employees, members, board members, affiliated Clubs, consultants, contractors and licensees, to create and maintain a safe culture for children and young people.

LSV is committed to reducing the risks of abuse and harm to children and young people, and will ensure all staff; members, affiliated Clubs, consultants, contractors and licensees understand and adhere to the SCYP Policy and Procedure, relevant legislation, and statutory requirements. For more information on LSV's Child Safe and reporting policies head to: [Child Safety | Life Saving Victoria \(lsv.com.au\)](https://www.lsv.com.au)



## Child safe awareness course - SLSA

LSV recommends that all members over the age of 18 or any member in a position of authority (ie. Age Managers) should undertake the Child Safe Awareness Online module prior to the season commencement and refresh every two years.



The Child Safe Awareness Course provides participants with an awareness of child abuse and child protection and the confidence to be able to take appropriate action when they become concerned with the safety of a child.

[Click here to view to user guide of where to access the Child Safe Awareness Course](#)

## Working with children check for every member over the age of 18

This information should be read in conjunction with:

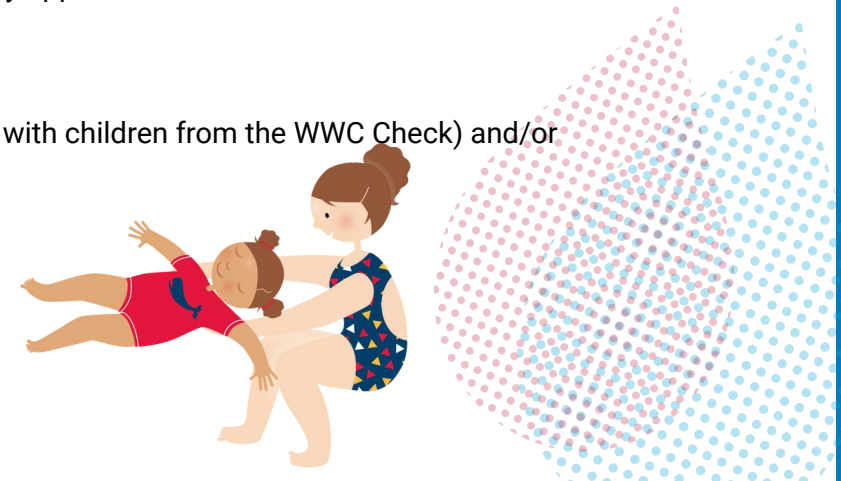
- The full policy can be found by clicking on the attached – [Working with Children Check Policy](#)
- The member guidance notes can be found by clicking on the attached - [Working with Children Check – FAQ's](#)
- SLSA Policy Statement – [Member Protection Policy – Policy Number 6.05](#)
- Working with Children Act 2005 (the Act)

Williamstown Swimming & Life Saving Club together with Life Saving Victoria is committed to the health, safety, and wellbeing of all its members and is dedicated to providing a best practice approach to ensure a safe environment for those participating in lifesaving activities.

WS&LSC and LSV are unique organisations that has multiple purposes including community service, sporting, education and leadership opportunities and programs. Each of these individual aspects inter-relate with each other. It is due to the multifaceted nature of WS&LSC and LSV, that members 18 years of age and above interact with children across a broad spectrum of activities, that this policy must be broadly applied.

Additionally, as an employers and volunteer organisations have a responsibility to:

- Ensure no employee or volunteer with a Negative Notice (i.e. have been found unsuitable to work with children from the WWC Check) and/or Interim Negative Notices (as defined under the Act), undertakes child related work
- Employees and volunteers have the appropriate WWC Check according to the work undertaken





WS&LSC and LSV has a moral obligation to protect its young members (U18). It also has a State legal requirement to ensure all young members are protected from physical and sexual harm. This legal requirement involves all members eighteen (18) years and older who undertake volunteer work that:



**Any person 18 years and over, in a voluntary or salaried position, who works with people under 18 years of age in any capacity is required to have a valid Working with Children Check registered to LSV and their Life Saving Club.**

The Department of Justice WWC Check website defines Child related work as contact with a child that is “direct” and part of the person’s duties. Direct contact includes oral, written or electronic communications as well as face to face”. (Reviewed 11 July 2017, [www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au) )

This includes all members over the age of 18 years old and recommended for all member regardless of age that are in Positions of Authority (PPA). A WWCC will consider offences of a sexual, violent and drug related nature and any offences that presents an unjustifiable risk to the safety of children. The check includes:

- National criminal record check for relevant convictions, findings of guilt and relevant pending charges a review of relevant findings from prescribed professional disciplinary bodies (currently only the Victorian Institute of Teaching)

## **Change of personal details requirements**

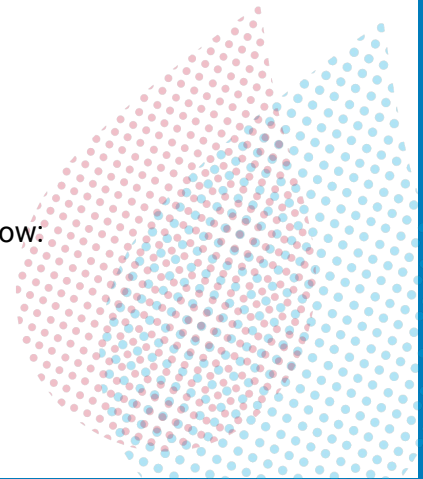
Individuals (both cardholders and applications) are required by law to notify the department within 21 days of any changes to:

- your name and those you are or have been known by
- your birth date
- your residential address
- the phone numbers you have provided in your application
- the organisations you do child-related work for and their contact details.

## **Website update**

You can confirm you have a valid card by periodically using the check status function on the department of justice website linked below:

<https://online.justice.vic.gov.au/wwccu/checkstatus.doj>



# Exemptions

## Clarification regarding persons exempted under the Act – Police Officers and VIT registered teachers.

The Working with Children Act 2005 provides for exemptions to Police Officers and VIT registered Teachers. Life Saving Victoria requires these people to have a WWC Check – despite their exemption under the Act. The reason being that if a VIT registered Teacher or a Police Officer who is member or staff of LSV or of an associated Life Saving Club commits an offence, Life Saving Victoria needs to be notified.



If Williamstown Swimming & Life Saving Club together with Life Saving Victoria is not listed as the staff or volunteers' employer or relevant organisation, the Department of Justice and Department of Education would be informed but Life Saving Victoria and the club would not.

As a result, a teacher or Police Officer who is a member of a club could have committed an offence and still be interacting with children. For this reason, Life Saving Victoria requires all members over the age of 18 to have a valid WWC Check specific to Life Saving Victoria and their associated Life Saving Club.

When applying or renewing your membership with WS&LSC you can apply/update a current WWCC online at: <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

Organisation Name and Addresses:

**Williamstown SLSC, PO Box 13, Williamstown. Vic. 3016 Phone: 0459 580 696**

AND

**Life Saving Victoria PO Box 353, South Melbourne Vic. 3205 Phone: 9676 6900**

Organisation Field:

**42 Clubs, associations or movements of a cultural, recreational or sporting nature.**

The WWC Check creates that vital link to ensure any alleged breaches (despite employment) can be picked up by the Department of Justice, who then reviews and if deemed appropriate, informs all relevant voluntary organisations. Only once WS&LSC has verified your WWC Check is current and the club registered, will membership application be considered for approval.

Note at the time of print, LSV is currently reviewing these requirements due to recent changes in Teacher VIT requirements. The current policy will stay in place until review completed. Any changes will be advised by Circular.

## Paid/Volunteers Checks

If a member already has a paid WWC Check it is possible to add a volunteer organisation to the employee WWC Check. However, a volunteer check cannot be updated to include an employer organisation.

## Code of conduct



General Code of Conduct Members and all people involved in any way with SLS will:

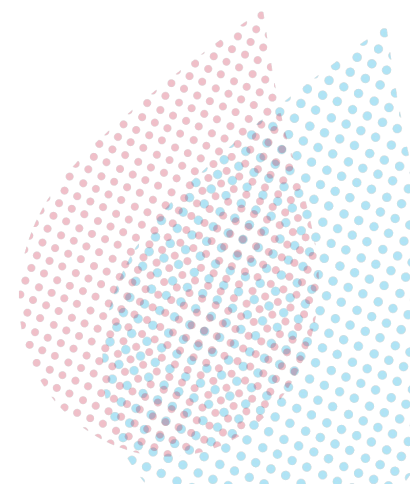
- a) Respect the rights, dignity and worth of others – treat others as you would like to be treated yourself
- b) Be ethical, considerate, fair, courteous, and honest in all dealings with other people and organisations
- c) Be professional in, and accept responsibility for your actions
- d) Be aware of and always follow – SLS' standards, rules, policies, and procedures and promote those standards, rules policies and procedures to others
- e) Operate within the rules and spirit of the sports, including the national and international guidelines that govern SLS
- f) Understand the possible consequences of breaching the Codes and/or this Policy
- g) Report any breaches of the Codes or this Policy to the appropriate PPA
- h) Refrain from any form of abuse, harassment, discrimination, and victimisation towards others
- i) Raise concerns regarding decisions of PPA through the appropriate channels and in a timely manner
- j) Provide a safe environment for the conduct of activities in accordance with any relevant SLISA policy
- k) Show concern, empathy and caution towards others that may be sick or injured
- l) Be a positive role model to all
- m) Respect and protect confidential information obtained through SLS activities or services; whether individuals and/or organisational information
- n) Maintain the required standard of accreditation and/or licensing of professional competencies, as applicable to the role(s)
- o) Ensure that any physical contact with others is appropriate to the situation and necessary for the person's skill development
- p) Refrain from intimate relations with persons over whom you have a position of authority
- q) Agree to abide by the Codes
- r) Maintain a duty of care towards others
- s) Be impartial and accept the responsibility for all actions taken.

## Contacts

Should you need to get in touch with us throughout the season please contact:

WS&LSC ADMINISTRATION Ingrid Magtengaard | **0459 580 696** | [info@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:info@williamstownslsc.org.au) | PO Box 13 Williamstown VIC 3016

MEMBERSHIP PROTECTION OFFICER Charlie Evans | [integrity@williamstownslsc.org.au](mailto:integrity@williamstownslsc.org.au)





**Williamstown Swimming & Surf Life Saving Club**  
**Thanks our valued Sponsors**

