

Circular 1810

Released July 2018



Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO) Workshop

Attention: Club Presidents, Secretary, Director of Administration, Director of Member Services, Junior Chairperson

Actioned by: Maria Caldwell, Director of Member Services

Date: 6 July 2018

Contact: Maria Caldwell | memberservices@sillawarra.com.au | 0407 134 787

Surf Life Saving Clubs, as organisation's that involve children, have a strong interest in keeping children safe.

As such, Surf Life Saving New South Wales (SLSNSW) has developed a number of procedures and resources which complement the Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA) Member Protection Policy.

It is important for clubs to understand that good 'child safe' policies and practices are the best way to reduce potential environmental risks and keep kids safer in our organisation. SLSNSW encourages all clubs to use a range of responses to manage the potential risks in their individual environments, including meeting their Working With Children Check (WWCC) legal obligations.

While a WWCC can be an important tool in an organisation's approach to being 'child safe', they cannot identify people who have not previously been caught or are yet to offend. As such, although an important part of being a 'child safe' organisation, practices such as reviewing risks, appointing **Member Protection and Information Officers (MPIO)**, good communication and training, and managing allegations, are equally important.

So, with that in mind, Surf Lifesaving Illawarra and Office of Sport will be facilitating a Member Protection Information Officer Workshop for our members. SLS Illawarra suggest that each club has at least 2 MPIOs (1 male and 1 female who are current financial members).

The process to become an MPIO is as follows:

- Club to appoint member/s
- Online Component
- Face-to-face Component

The workshop is being held on Monday 23 July 2018 from 6pm to 9pm at Surf House, 64 Smith St, Wollongong. Cost will be \$15.00 per person (clubs will be invoiced).

Please email Maria Caldwell, Director of Member Services at memberservices@sillawarra.com.au who from your club has been appointed the MPIO and will be attending the Workshop (face-to-face component). Please forward their name, email address and phone number. **RSVP Wednesday 18 July 2018.**



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Each participant will require the following details:

1. Complete Online component – FREE (needs to be completed prior to face to face workshop)

Access this component through <https://pbtr.ausport.gov.au>

Topics covered include:

- Complaints resolution procedures
- Member protection and the law
- Child protection
- Harassment and discrimination
- Ethical and practical considerations

2. Attend Face-to-face component – Monday 23 July 2018 at Surf House, 64 Smith St, Wollongong

The MPIO face-to-face workshop consolidates what you've learnt online and focuses on the skills you need when dealing with people.

The workshop covers:

- MPIO roles and responsibilities
- Listening and responding effectively
- Conflict of interest and impartiality
- Communication and promotion
- Where to get help
- Useful resources and contacts

For further information and resources in regard to Child Protection and Working with Children go to <https://www.surflifesaving.com.au/resources/child-protection-and-working-children>