

2.7 GRIEF AND TRAUMA COUNSELLING

1. Disaster and Accident Procedure for all Formations

All Scouting activities carry some risk. The safety of all youth members engaged in Scouting activities is our Number One Priority. Despite the very best efforts of all our Adult Leaders to minimise and manage risk, there may be accidents causing serious injury and even deaths of youth members.

In the event of such a circumstance, all Adult Leaders must be aware of what to do and if in doubt contact the Region Commissioner, Chief Commissioner or Branch Office.

2. Medical Advice and Guidance

Coping with grief and sorrow is a major issue in the event of serious accidents and death. It is recommended that Adult Leaders, parents and children urgently seek professional advice and care when confronted with a major traumatic incident. This may extend to persons who are not related but have a close connection through involvement in Scouting.

Guidance concerning counselling may be obtained from local general medical practitioners or medical centres; or from Child and Adolescent Services, Phillip Health Centre, Corrina Street, Phillip, Telephone (02) 6205 1444.

3. Parent Contact

Parent contact is another important issue. This role is one of informing the parents of a child, that their son or daughter has been seriously injured or killed during a Scouting activity. Ultimately, other parents in the Group and eventually all Scouting parents must be informed of the incident. This is a very sensitive task.

There is only one Golden Rule here - ONLY AN ADULT LEADER, and preferably one known by the parents, MUST CONTACT PARENTS OF THE CHILD. If there is any concern in this regard, the Region Commissioner or Chief Commissioner is to be advised and he/she will inform the parents or advise of how the matter can be most appropriately handled.

4. Reporting Serious Incidents

Refer also to Policy Statement 10.2 - Incident Reports

When an incident occurs whilst on a Scouting activity which results in serious injury necessitating hospitalisation, or death, a written report setting out all details is to be submitted through the Region Commissioner, or a Branch Commissioner where appropriate, to the Branch Office. This is to be done as soon as practicably possible by the Leader first informed of the incident and is to be submitted in any case within seven days of the incident.

5. Injury to Adults Involved in Scouting Activities

Similar processes should be followed to those indicated for youth members with the next of kin being the point of contact.

AUTHORITY

This statement was approved by the Branch Executive Committee on 25 November 1998.