

Australian Rostrum (ACT Dais) Inc
Child Safety Policy
[JUNE 2024]

Status, purpose and application,

1. This policy reflects ACT Rostrum's commitment to ensuring the safety of children as an utmost priority in the course of conducting ACT Rostrum activities.
2. All members of ACT Rostrum must act consistently with this policy in any interactions with children as part of ACT Rostrum activities. For example, ACT Primary Schools Speaking Competition, Rostrum Voice of Youth Competitions or club meetings and social gatherings.
3. For the purposes of this policy, 'child' means any child or young person under the age of 18 years.

Participation of children in Rostrum club meetings and social events

4. Junior members (ie ACT Rostrum members aged between 12 and 17 years) and other children are not permitted to attend Rostrum meetings or social events in the absence of at least one adult parent or guardian.
5. If a junior member or other child does attend a meeting or social event in breach of the paragraph 4, relevant club office-bearers should take appropriate steps to address it, provided that any steps taken must prioritise the safety and wellbeing of the child concerned.

Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) and children's speaking competitions

6. Rostrum members who coordinate/adjudicate children's speaking competitions organised by ACT Rostrum must comply with relevant provisions of the *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011 (ACT)*, or equivalent legislation of other jurisdictions if applicable.

Unacceptable conduct by members towards children

7. In any interactions with children in the course of Rostrum activities, members of ACT Rostrum shall not:
 - a. be alone with a child
 - b. shame, humiliate, oppress, belittle or degrade a child
 - c. discriminate against any child including because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
 - d. initiate or engage in physical contact with a child
 - e. arrange or engage in communication, including online or phone contact, with a child which is not directed through, and/or copied to, a parent or guardian of the child

- f. develop a “special” relationship or show favouritism to a specific child
- g. photograph or video a child or young person without the consent of the child and their parents or guardians
- h. interact with children while under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs
- i. engage in discussions of a sexually explicit nature in the presence of children
- j. use inappropriate language or behaviour, including discriminatory or oppressive language or behaviour, in the presence of children.

8. The prohibitions in paragraphs 7a and 7d-g above do not apply to Rostrum members who are parents or guardians of the children involved.
9. If the ACT Rostrum Dais receives a report of conduct by a Rostrum member inconsistent with the above clauses, it may commence disciplinary action which may lead to expulsion from ACT Rostrum under the provisions of the ACT Rostrum Constitution. Any allegations that appear to involve criminal conduct by a Rostrum member and/or another person may be reported to