

# Information for Parents and Caregivers about Safeguarding Chanichimot and Madrichimot\*

\* madrichim/ot are the leaders who have not gone on shnat (year 10s and 11s that lead on some of the camps). Bogrim/ot are the leaders that have gone on shnat and are young adults.

## Our Commitment

At AZYC we consider the health, safety and wellbeing of all children and young people to be our highest priority. We strive to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our chanichimot and madrichimot , in particular, through our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy / Commitment Statement.

Our Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy / Commitment Statement has been adopted, approved and endorsed by AZYC. It underpins a set of policies and procedures in relation to the protection of chanichimot and madrichimot which guide:

- the screening and recruitment of our youth movement leaders, shlichim (Jewish agency representatives), leadership, employees and any other volunteers (all the above are referred to as our people and shlichim in this Information guide)
- the behaviour of our people and shlichim towards children and young people
- the induction and training of our people and shlichim about safeguarding children and young people
- our open and effective communication with children and young people and their parents
- our responses to the abuse and neglect of children if it occurs and
- our maintenance of a safeguarding culture in the AZYC.

Our People must ensure that their approach and interactions with chanichimot and madrichimot are sensitive, respectful and inclusive of all backgrounds and abilities. We promote equity and respect diversity by:

- actively anticipating children's diverse circumstances and responding effectively to those with additional vulnerabilities
- by giving all children access to information, support and complaints processes, and
- paying particular attention to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children with a disability and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Our People are required to:

- undergo an extensive screening process including a Working with Children Check and/or a National Criminal Records Check (note: not applicable for under 18 year old madrichim/ot)
- behave professionally and with care towards children and young people including not acting outside the boundaries of their duties or using their position with the organisation to solicit work with or initiate contact with children and young people who are participants of our organisation
- understand the important responsibility they have to protect children and young people from all forms of abuse, bullying and exploitation either by our people and shlichim or that occurs outside the scope of our operations and services; and
- create and maintain a child safe culture.

We expect all within our organisation, regardless of their role or level of responsibility, to act to safeguard children from such harm by:

- adopting the practices and behaviour we have set as our standard when carrying out their roles, and
- reporting any abuse or neglect of which they become aware to the AZYC executive and/or to external authorities responsible for child protection or to police, regardless of whether that abuse is being perpetrated by people within our organisation, or by those outside our organisation including those from the child's family, extended family, their family's extended network or strangers.

We are dedicated to protecting the children and young people in our community and have successfully achieved Accreditation with the Australian Childhood Foundation's Safeguarding Children Program.



## Responding to Child Abuse Reports and Allegations

We consider any form of child abuse including emotional, physical and sexual abuse, family violence, grooming or neglect as intolerable under any circumstances.

We have a legal, moral and mission driven responsibility to protect children and young people from harm and to ensure that any incident of suspected child abuse is promptly and appropriately dealt with. Our people and shlichim are required to report suspected child abuse to their State Rosh and the child protection authorities or the police. AZYC will co-operate with the child protection authorities and police and other agencies as required by law.

## Practice & Behaviour Guidelines (Safeguarding Code of Conduct)

Our people and shlichim are required to maintain the highest standards of professional conduct towards chanichimot and madrichimot. We have developed Practice & Behaviour Guidelines to identify and prevent behaviour that may be harmful to the chanichimot and madrichimot in our care. The Code of Conduct can be found on the AZYC website.

## Further Information

If you have concerns regarding the safety of a child or young person or would like to discuss any of the information further, please contact the Executive Officer: [exec.officer@azyc.com.au](mailto:exec.officer@azyc.com.au).

For more information about child safety at AZYC and to view our full Safeguarding Children Policies visit our website <https://www.azyc.com.au/>.



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