

Work Health and Safety: What it means for Pony Club SA volunteers



Adapted from Worksafe Australia
Volunteer Resource Kit 2013



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What is Work Health and Safety?

- **Work health and safety is about protecting the health and safety of people at work or who may be affected by work. This includes Pony Club SA volunteers.**
- **Work health and safety laws protect the rights of workers, including volunteers and organisations.**



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Work Health and Safety laws

- Work health and safety (WHS) laws aim to protect people from harm to their health and safety arising from work, including voluntary work.
- WHS laws mean that organisations must ensure, ***so far as is reasonably practicable***, the health and safety of their volunteers and workers alike



Who is covered?

- Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU)/Organisations (this includes PCA SA)
- Workers, including volunteers
- Other persons who may be impacted by the work the organisation does e.g. catering staff



Who is not covered?


Volunteer Associations:

A group of people working together for one or more community purposes that **do not employ anyone** e.g. a local chess club



What you need to know


If you volunteer for an organisation, the WHS Act requires the organisation to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, your health and safety when you are carrying out work.



Give some examples of how this might happen now?

What you need to know

You also have to take reasonable care for your own health and safety and make sure the things you do don't affect the health and safety of others.



Give some examples of how you already might care for your own health & safety

What you need to do

- ✓ Take reasonable care for your own health and safety
- ✓ Take reasonable care to ensure you don't affect the health and safety of others
- ✓ Carry out your tasks in a safe way
- ✓ Follow the reasonable work health and safety instructions given to you, and
- ✓ Co-operate with the reasonable work health and safety policies and procedures.



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Activity- Taking Reasonable Care

Form into pairs and spend a few minutes answering these questions before reporting back to the group

1. What are the hazards and risks you encounter when volunteering at Pony Club?
2. Does Pony Club SA have policies and procedures for some of the work you do?
3. Do you follow these policies and procedures?

WHS Laws & Volunteers

- When you:
 - take reasonable care for your own health and safety
 - take reasonable care to make sure you don't affect the health and safety of others
 - comply, as much as you are reasonable able to, with reasonable instructions of Pony Club SA, and
 - co-operate with any reasonable policy or procedure of Pony Club SA

You cannot and will not be fined or prosecuted.

Talking About Health & Safety

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- This means that Pony Club SA must share relevant health and safety information and allow you to contribute ideas about how to make your job safer

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DISCUSSION: What different ways is information about Workplace Health & Safety shared in Pony Club SA?

What if something happens?

You need to let Pony Club SA know

- as soon as possible if someone is:
 - seriously injured
 - becomes seriously ill, or
 - is exposed to a serious risk to their health and safety because a dangerous incident occurs.

Issue Resolution

- There are also duties for organisation to develop procedures for resolving health and safety issues.
- The procedures should be designed to help all involved parties make reasonable efforts to reach an effective solution.

Volunteer Officers

- An ‘officer’ is:
 - “a person who makes, or participates in making decisions that affect the whole, or a substantial part of, the organisation. The decisions officers make also have the capacity to significantly affect the organisations financial standing.” e.g. PCASA Board Members
- A volunteer can be an officer.
- A volunteer officer cannot be prosecuted for not complying with their officer duties.

Take Home Message

- ✓ WHS laws give you the highest level of protection when you volunteer.
- ✓ Health and safety is the responsibility of everyone in the workplace.
- ✓ Think safe and act safe when you are volunteering.