

Fostering Inclusivity in Surf Life Saving Clubs - A Guide for Parents and Carers



As a parent or carer of a Surf Life Saving club member with a disability, you can support the creation of a nurturing environment of inclusivity within the club. Dedicated efforts are being made to ensure that individuals with disabilities can actively participate in all facets of the lifesaving community. Whether your child is engaging in surf lifesaving for recreational enjoyment, community involvement, or with aspirations to excel, the club offers a platform for all to partake in the exhilarating experience of surf lifesaving.

How You Can Offer Support

- Encourage your child/dependent to embrace their role within the club and make the most of the available opportunities.
- Maintain open communication and collaborate with the club's coordinators and administrators to explore effective ways to integrate your child/dependent.
- Recognise that the club may not be fully aware of your the specific needs, so provide relevant information and extend your support to foster inclusivity.
- Help your child/dependent understand their responsibilities within the club, fostering a sense of ownership and engagement.
- Empower your child/dependent to communicate any concerns they may have regarding equitable treatment and encourage open discussions within the club community.

Steps to Consider

- Initiate discussions with the club's representatives to address any specific needs or queries you may have, ensuring that you and your child/dependent are comfortable and have a clear understanding of what information is available.
- Provide necessary information to the club so they can provide any accommodations or supports that may be needed.
- Seek advice and recommendations from fellow parents, caregivers, or the club's leadership to identify suitable opportunities tailored to your child's/dependent's requirements.
- Explore the available resources within the surf lifesaving community to gain insights and tips to enhance your child's/dependent's experience.
- Familiarise yourself with the club's welfare policies and guidelines to ensure a comprehensive understanding of the club's approach to inclusivity.
- Take necessary steps outlined within the club's procedures in case of any perceived instances of discrimination or unfair treatment.

A Final Reminder

Your child/dependent deserves the opportunity to thrive within the surf lifesaving community, overcoming challenges and fostering valuable connections. By embracing their unique abilities and encouraging their active participation, you contribute significantly to the development of an inclusive and welcoming environment within the club. Your collaborative efforts, alongside the club's initiatives, pave the way for a welcoming and supportive atmosphere for all surf lifesaving participants, regardless of their abilities.