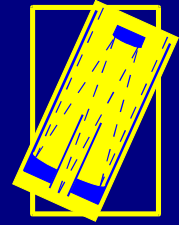


South East Queensland Astronomical Society Inc.



Risk Management Strategy for Safeguarding Children

February 2008

South East Queensland
Astronomical Society Inc.

Statement of commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and the protection of children from harm.

SEQAS is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children, who are near SEQAS members or their equipment during school nights, public information events, public field nights or any other similar event involving children.

Code of Conduct for interacting with children and young people.

SEQAS members will limit their interaction with children to presentations or descriptions of astronomical items or issues and use of astronomical equipment under supervision by a SEQAS member during school nights, public information events, public field nights, or other similar events attended by SEQAS members. SEQAS members will avoid any action or situation which could be interpreted as potentially causing harm to any child.

Recruitment, training and management procedures for staff (including appropriate screening – ie. Blue cards and registers of staff who hold blue cards).

The President of SEQAS, or member of SEQAS who organises a public event, will check that SEQAS members participating in presentations to the public, which includes children, can demonstrate they have a current blue card and that they have read this RMS and are committed to conform with it while in the presence of children.

Reporting guidelines and directions for handling disclosures and suspicions of harm.

The SEQAS organiser of a public event who witnesses or receives a report of possible harm will advise the school organiser or senior school staff member present if the public event is a school night, or otherwise will take details of the circumstances and report it to the President of SEQAS for consideration at the next committee meeting of what action to take.

A policy for managing breaches of this risk management strategy.

Breaches of this RMS will be brought to the next available Committee meeting for a decision on possible action to take.

Policies and Procedures for compliance with blue card legislation

The president of SEQAS will be the nominated point for contact by the relevant government department. Each year the President will check that SEQAS complies with current legislation and will report compliance to the AGM.

Risk management plans for high risk activities and special events.

SEQAS will endeavour to not undertake any high risk activity and will not plan or manage any event deemed to incur abnormal risks to either SEQAS staff or members of the public, especially children.

Strategies for communication and support.

This RMS will be provided to all members of SEQAS and reissued whenever amended. The RMS will be made available to school staff who request a school night event, or to any other member of the public who requests a public field night. A copy of the RMS will be also be taken to any other event where children may be present for viewing on request by any member of the public. The President will remind all SEQAS members at no less than 6 monthly intervals of their obligations to conform with this RMS.