RBGV's New Child Safe Program

Dear Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Volunteer or Friend,

Thank you for staying connected with the Gardens during Victoria’s coronavirus pandemic lockdown. We know many of you have been at home and unable to go to the Gardens due to restrictions and we miss you!

This period has reinforced the importance of our gardens for the mental and physical wellbeing of so many, and we can’t wait to welcome you back. More on this very soon, I hope.

In the meantime, this is to introduce you to an important new program for all volunteers, staff, on-site Friends groups and contractors at our Gardens: the new RBGV Child Safe Program. Participation is mandatory and a condition of return to our sites, so we’ve put together a helpful toolkit (below) to assist you to move through the program.

This program is designed to raise awareness of an important task we all share, to safeguard and protect children and young people under 18 years of age at our two sites from abuse, neglect or harm.

We want children and teenagers to know they will be welcome and will thrive in an environment where adults are committed to keeping them safe. Kids from marginalised backgrounds – those experiencing barriers to participation due to cultural background, socioeconomic status or disability – are particularly vulnerable.

Please watch this short recording from a recent staff meeting to learn about the changes, and your contribution. Your volunteer coordinator or Friends relationship manager will be able to assist with questions, and you can reach out to the Safeguarding Children Taskforce and Child Safety Officer Robin Penty via childsafety@rbg.vic.gov.au.

https://youtu.be/NvSGYbZwf\_s

<iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/NvSGYbZwf\_s" frameborder="0" allow="accelerometer; autoplay; clipboard-write; encrypted-media; gyroscope; picture-in-picture" allowfullscreen></iframe>