



## What happens then?

Your call will be referred to someone trained in listening to concerns such as yours. Under each state's legislation, the Scout Association has an obligation to refer any suspicion of sexual abuse of young people (under the age of 18 years) to the local welfare authority.

\* Otherwise, that person will acquaint you with the procedures for dealing with the alleged misconduct by anyone holding a position of trust within Scouts Australia.  
\* Remember that if it is one of your friends who has suffered in this way you can help him or her by giving them this brochure and this number:

50 255400

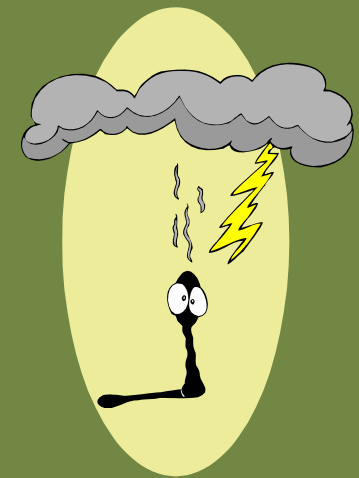
\* Cases of sexual abuse by someone in a position of trust outside Scouts Australia should be reported to welfare authorities and the police.

## What if it occurred a long time ago?

\* It is never too late to report sexual abuse or harassment. By reporting it you help our Scouts to be a safe place for all.

\* Even if the person who abused or harassed you is no longer part of Scouts, or has died, your complaint will be listened to and your needs addressed.

Sexual abuse by people in positions of trust is absolutely unacceptable to Scouts Australia. It wants its communities to be safe places for all and places where young people can enjoy their lives to the full.



**'You don't have to be in bad weather to be under a cloud'**



**'For teenagers, working with adults is mostly good, but when it isn't....'**



**What should you do if you believe you are a victim of sexual abuse within Sunraysia Branch of Scouts Australia.**

**Ring Mallee Sexual Assault Unit on:  
50 255400**

**144—146 Lime Ave.,  
MILDURA 3500**

**[info@msau-mdvs.com.au](mailto:info@msau-mdvs.com.au)**

**'Teenage years are times of new and exciting opportunities. Some experiences in those years bring with them problems: sexual abuse brings big problems.'**

### Why?

- It causes deep hurt—often over a long period of time.
- It breaks trust.

### What are the special responsibilities for those who work for Scouts?

- Those who work for Scouts, in Groups or District events have a special position of trust.
- They must keep that trust, avoiding all forms of sexual harassment and abuse totally and without exception.

### What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse can occur in physical contact and in verbal behaviour when it comes from a person in a position of trust—an older youth member, a leader, parent helper or Scouts Australia staff. Such a person may be using power of that position to satisfy a sexual need.

If it is physical, it can take these forms:

- 'accidental', touching of sexual areas of the body
- physical contact like tackling or playful aggression that makes you feel uncomfortable, kissing of any kind
- pressing up against your body



- gifts, especially those that are inappropriate (lingerie, a condom, photos)
- sexual intercourse

If it is verbal sexual abuse initiated by a person in a position of trust it can include the following:

- words straight or humorous that have a sexual slant
- Repeated and unwelcome requests for social contact
- Questions about intimate details of your relationships with another person or persons
- Stories of the abuser's sexual adventures
- Looking for sympathy over problems in the abuser's relationships with his or her partner
- Other forms of sexual harassment

It can include non-verbal behaviour such as prolonged gazing at certain areas of the body such as cleavage, breasts, legs, buttocks, crotch and genitalia.

### What are some signs that sexual abuse is taking place?

- You are uncomfortable and confused with the interaction even if you are flattered in the first instance.
- The person is spending a lot of time with you and is paying you special attention.
- You are receiving personal gifts.
- You get invitations for intimate occasions.
- You are touched in a way that you find uncomfortable or upsetting.
- The abuser may use words such as "it's because I care about you", to justify inappropriate contact.

### Why is sexual abuse wrong?

- There are feelings of discomfort, guilt, confusion, betrayal and mistrust and there may be psychological and emotional scars.

- A person holding a position of trust who engages in sexual abuse, violates the relationships and the principles that apply to professional groups, such as teaching, pastoral, medical and psychological.
- A person holding a position of trust has more power than a young person: this means the young person cannot give meaningful consent to sexual contact



- A person holding a position of trust who engages in sexual abuse is taking advantage of another's vulnerability.
- Even when a mutually desired, romantic relationship develops, a person in a position of trust is obliged to remove himself or herself from a relationship with the other person that causes ethical and professional conflict.
- It is illegal

### What should you do if you are sexually attracted to a person in a position of trust?

- There may be nothing wrong with you or your feelings. The person in a position of trust may seem to you to be a very attractive, caring person.
- If you share your feeling of attraction it is the professional responsibility of the person in a position of trust to acknowledge your feelings and help you to understand that he or she cannot return your interest in an intimate relationship while in that position of trust.
- There is no need to feel rejected if this happens. The person in a position of trust is simply trying to preserve the trust of his or her position.

