



The Salvation Army Today

Today, The Salvation Army is better placed to prevent occurrences of abuse. All persons who work with or volunteer with children are screened for any adverse criminal history (including any adverse history with respect to care of children) before being permitted to work with them. We currently employ two people who constantly work on refining and training personnel in our abuse prevention and education framework. They are supported by a team of trainers (across New South Wales, the ACT and Queensland) who prepare (and conduct refresher courses for) staff, Officers and volunteers for their roles with children so that they can understand and put into practice procedures and protocols to try and prevent abuse from ever occurring.

Centre for Restoration staff have made numerous presentations and provided training to experienced Officers about the correct way to handle abuse complaints, being conscious and aware of the specific vulnerabilities of people who choose to make reports of such traumatic events. This training stresses the importance of providing support and, if required, counselling, to the person making the report.

The Salvation Army takes very seriously its responsibility to support and assist persons who have reported complaints of an abusive nature by any Salvation Army staff member, Officer or volunteer. The Salvation Army strives to eliminate abuse events and is committed to responding properly when they occur.

The Salvation Army has made significant improvements in how it handles reports of abuse.

Current

Whenever a complaint is raised about the behaviour of a Salvation Army staff member, Officer or volunteer with a child, and where the complaint suggests that abuse may have occurred, the staff member, Officer or volunteer will be suspended from their regular role until the complaint has been appropriately and independently investigated. Where a complaint of serious criminal behaviour is upheld, disciplinary action, including dismissal of the offender from all roles within The Salvation Army, will take place.

Historic

If an adult chooses to report abuse that occurred when they were a child, we now have specialist employees who record the details of these reports and, if possible, those staff members assist survivors with reporting the matter to the police. In each and every instance, The Salvation Army seeks to assist the survivor and their family through the reporting process by funding counselling and other support.

As well as these important prevention and reporting processes, The Salvation Army continually undertakes training of Officers to respond correctly and pastorally to any complaint about sexual or other abuse. This includes in the case of a child, making the necessary reports to State Authorities.

Reporting to the Police

If you believe a criminal act is involved or has been committed, you can report the matter to the Police. We will support you to do this by attending the Police station with you if you choose.

However, if you do not wish to report this to the Police at this time, you are always able to do so in the future.

Please be aware that the nature of the allegations you disclose to us may require us to report the matter directly to the Police as part of our mandatory reporting obligations.