

RISK INFORMATION – CHURCHES PARENTAL PERMISSION FORMS

The information provided in this paper is intended to assist church staff in providing parents with sufficient information to enable them to provide informed consent for their children to attend activities organised under the auspices of a church (e.g. Sunday school outings, youth group camps, etc.).

Introduction to Parental Permission Forms

Parental permission forms are intended to provide information to parents so that they can provide informed consent for their child to attend the described activity.

The proposed activity should be described in full including underlying risks and proposed controls. Any proposed transport options should be described so that specific permission can be given.

The medical and dietary component of permission forms enable parents to provide information outlining any pre-existing conditions that might impact a participant's ability to fully take part in the activity or assist in the provision of emergency treatment options. It also captures parents' consent to obtain emergency treatment and their agreement to pay the costs of such treatment.

Activity Information and Registration

Provide a full description of the activity and its associated risks and controls.

Include a statement of booking conditions including participant behavioural expectations. Privacy status of information provided should be made clear.

Capture participant information including skill levels pertaining to certain activities, e.g. swimming proficiency.

Capture parent and emergency contact information. Increasingly, parents of children live apart and custodial and/or contact restrictions may be in place. It is important that activity supervisors understand those arrangements.

Outline proposed transport arrangements.

Obtain parental consent to attend the activity, to utilise described transport and include a statement excluding the church, its employees and volunteers from liability for accident or injury to participants.

Obtain participant agreement to abide by camp behavioural expectations.

Specific permission is required to take photos of participants and/or use their images in any public manner.

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Medical and Dietary Information and Approval

Parents are asked to provide details of relevant medical information. Relevant information will include Medicare details, family doctor details and details of ambulance and private medical insurance cover.

Obtain details of current medical conditions and any management or treatment plan options. Details may include allergy conditions (anaphylaxis, penicillin, coeliac, paracetamol, SPF reaction), asthma, diabetes, epilepsy or fits, developmental or behavioural problems (attention deficit disorder, hyperactive, Asperger syndrome, autism), bed wetting, sleep walking, skin conditions, recent fractures, disabilities, migraine, sight impairment, hearing impairment and/or travel sickness.

Food allergy or dietary requirements are needed to inform venue catering staff.

Obtain parental confirmation that the child has no pre-existing medical conditions that would prevent participation in proposed activities and that activities will not exacerbate any pre-existing conditions. Receive parental consent to obtain medical treatment in emergency situations and acceptance of responsibility for costs of medical treatment.