Council Takes Action With Child Safe Training

South Gippsland Shire Council undertook child safe training last week to finalise the organisation's implementation of the Victorian Government's Child Safe Standards.

The session highlighted what child abuse is, the requirements under the new standards and legislation, Council's response and reporting guidelines.

The session was the final presentation made after all staff within the organisation had completed the essential training.

The Child Safe Standards are compulsory minimum standards required by organisations that provide services to children. The standards aim to build a stronger and more consistent approach to preventing and responding to child abuse.

South Gippsland Shire Mayor Councillor Lorraine Brunt acknowledged the importance of the training session.

"Council has a zero tolerance policy towards child abuse and is committed to providing safe spaces for our children.

"It is vital that we are educated on this issue and have the tools available to report any inappropriate behaviour. We ultimately could be the difference to our young people that are vulnerable," said the Mayor.

Council's Coordinator Children and Family Services Sally Baker facilitated the sessions with assistance from Baw Baw Shire Council's Child Safe Officer Leonie Martens.

"Council takes all allegations of abuse seriously and has practices in place to investigate thoroughly and quickly. We are proud to have conducted this training across the whole organisation and to have dedicated Child Safe Officers available for staff to speak to."

Council's commitment to child safety is available to view online at
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/childsafety

Anyone impacted by child abuse is strongly encouraged to contact Lifeline on 13 11 14 for support.

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