

## Protecting your children – A parent's guide

On 9 September 2002 Mr James Priest, Chief Commissioner of Scouts Queensland announced the launch of a new booklet which aims to help both parents and the wider community talk about and address the serious issue of child abuse in Australia.

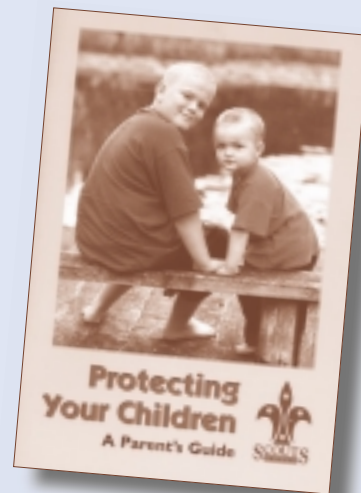
The 38-page booklet was launched by the Honourable Paul de Jersey, AC, Chief Justice of Queensland who congratulated the Scout Association for its “pro-active and up-front approach to the vexing issue of child protection” and said that the new booklet is an excellent and practical publication of “great potential value to all parents”.

Scouts Australia is the largest Youth Organisation in the country and maintains a zero tolerance level for any and all forms of abuse. Chief Commissioner Priest states that: “Unfortunately, historically, children

have been accorded little, if any, status in society. Deprived of rights and perceived as the property of their parents, children used to be treated any way their ‘owners’ saw fit”.

The Chief Commissioner suggested that “there is a tremendous misconception that any application of the notion of children’s rights will mean an erosion of parent’s rights, which is absolute nonsense”. Mr Priest also said that educating parents on the issue of child abuse is one way that Scouts can help protect the children of Queensland.

The *Protecting Your Children* booklet explains the various types of child abuse and signs which may indicate that a child has been abused, how to prevent child abuse, basic rules of safety for children and it also offers advice for those who work with children. The booklet is one of a series of guides



for parents and is available free of charge from Scouts Queensland. It can be ordered on Phone: (07) 3870 7000 or via email [qldhq@qldhq.scouts.com.au](mailto:qldhq@qldhq.scouts.com.au)