

Dear Members,

Hi my name is Karen Shield I have recently been appointed as the TPC **Member Protection Information Officer (MPIO)** and **Risk Management Officer (RMO)** for the 2010 year. Both positions are fairly new to PCAQ and the first time they will have been implemented at TPC. As RMO my role is to ensure that risks (all varieties) are managed the best possible way using a risk management approach - Identify the hazard, assess the risk, control the hazard, review and monitor. I am passionate about safety and have worked in the field for over 15 years within the State Government at both the strategic and operational level as well as running my own OHS business. Whilst at TPC and all the time I encourage you to act in a safe manner and always look out for each other, if you see something that is not safe report it immediately it's for everyone's benefit. My risk management motto is THINK SAFE - RIDE SAFE - HOME SAFE. If you think safe and ride safe then you will go home injury free 😊

In relation to my other role MPIO I have cut some information out of the PCAQ policy which describes why the position has come about, and how I can assist you.

**Member protection** is a term used by the Australian sport industry to describe the practices and procedures that protect members – both individual members such as players, coaches and officials, and the member organisations such as clubs, state associations, other affiliated associations and the national body. Member protection involves:

- protecting those that are involved in sport activities from harassment, abuse, discrimination and other forms of inappropriate behavior
- adopting appropriate measures to ensure the right people are involved in an organisation, particularly in relation to those involved with juniors, and
- providing education.

**Member Protection Information Officer** means a person trained to be the first point of contact for a person reporting a complaint under, or a breach of, the policy. The MPIO provides confidential information and moral support to the person with the concern or who is alleging harassment or a breach of the policy. They help the complainant deal with any emotions they may have about what has happened and operate as a sounding board as the complainant decides what they want to do. The MPIO may accompany the complainant in anything they decide to do, if it feels appropriate and they are happy to do it.

FYI - I will have both the TPC Risk Management policy and TPC Member Protection Policy at our sign on day and encourage you to come and have a chat with me so I can explain both policies to you in more detail. PCAQ also have both policies on their website <http://www.pcaq.asn.au/PCAQ%20Policies.htm>

In relation to safety, the first issue I would like to raise to ensure no deaths or injury to members and visitors is a dangerous risk taking behavior that has been occurring for some time. Some members are allowing their children to stand up and ride on the side of their cars after undoing the front gate when entering the TPC. Whilst this may be a done thing on home acreage it is neither legal nor acceptable behavior on the pony club grounds, remember THINK SAFE, RIDE SAFE, HOME SAFE.

I can be contacted on [rmo@tallebudgeraponyclub.com](mailto:rmo@tallebudgeraponyclub.com) or 0412774129 or I'm at the club most afternoons from 4-6pm

Karen