



# Rostrum Voice of Youth National Duty of Care Policy

A Rostrum Voice of Youth (RVOY) coordinator/chaperone needs a Working with Children (or equivalent) registration. Rostrum members in the short notice preparation areas also require this registration.

In accordance with the manual, “Zone Coordinators/chaperones have a ‘duty of care’ to the students and are considered to be acting ‘in loco parentis’ (in the place of the parent)”. Zone coordinators/chaperone need to aware of where their students are at all times.

In view of this, the weekend of the National Final is a ‘dry weekend’ with alcohol **not** to be consumed by the coordinators/chaperones.

Students will be closely supervised at all activities during the weekend. In activities where a Zone Coordinator is not present, those members/volunteers supervising the activity must have a Working with Children (or equivalent) registration.

Duty of Care is likely to extend beyond the time when students return to their rooms at night. ‘Corridor duty’ is a common occurrence and will be shared according to the needs of the particular group of students in our care.

An Emergency Contingency Plan was introduced in 2016 at the request of the Victorian Rostrum Executive which outlines the role of the zone chaperones in case of an emergency.

This will be prepared by the National Coordinator in conjunction with the National Convener, prior to all National Finals and be distributed to students, parents or guardians, Zone Coordinators, Zone Presidents and the National President. This includes all the contact details and course of action in case of an emergency.

The adjudication results at the respective RVOY finals are FINAL and it is important that coordinators/chaperones support this by not engaging in discussion with students, parents or other coordinators regarding the results. The role of the chaperone is to be positive and supportive.

The success of the weekend program is a team effort. Although the National Convener and his/her team are responsible for the program, Zone Coordinators, chaperones and Rostrum members and volunteers make it work. We are fortunate that the students we have in our care are usually really good students and we encounter very few problems.

With a changing world, our role is made more challenging. Failure to comply with these guidelines may necessitate the Zone Coordinator having to return home prior to the conclusion of the National Final and an alternate chaperone will need to be appointed.

In view of this, the Zone Coordinators need to sign this policy to show they have read the document and are prepared to abide by the conditions outlined.

Zone Coordinator for..... Signed.....  
Date.....