

# Policy on Leaders' Response Regarding Adolescent Pregnancy



<b>Rationale</b>	GirlGuiding New Zealand members need to be aware of the need for support and help while working with girls and young women who are pregnant. This includes enabling them to continue as normally as possible with their Guiding life.
<b>Purposes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To give ongoing support to adolescent members who are pregnant.</li> <li>• To give guidelines for adult members of GirlGuiding New Zealand to act appropriately should a girl member disclose that she is pregnant.</li> </ul>
<b>Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of a leader is to be supportive of the girl so that she can continue in Guiding if she wishes.</li> <li>• At all times she should be treated with sensitivity and not be pressured in any way by adult members of GirlGuiding New Zealand.</li> <li>• If disclosure happens – encourage the girl to talk to her partner, parents/caregivers, a school counsellor and/or the Family Planning Association. This must be kept confidential unless she asks you to do otherwise.</li> <li>• Adult members of GirlGuiding New Zealand should support the girl member to the fullest extent to enable her to continue Guiding if she chooses.</li> <li>• If she wishes to attend camps and trainings, including Queens Guide Residentials, she is to be encouraged and supported. If the child has been born, this may involve ensuring adequate facilities for the girl and her child, and if necessary, a buddy to assist with childcare to ensure the girl gets the most out of the event.</li> </ul>
<b>Conclusion</b>	GirlGuiding NZ supports and values its members. Adolescent pregnancy needs to be dealt with in a sensitive manner to ensure the girl feels supported in any disclosure she may make to a leader, and any decisions she may make regarding the pregnancy. At all times the confidentiality of the girl must be respected.
<b>Date of policy</b>	October 2003
<b>Last reviewed</b>	February 2011