



RECOMMENDED SUPERVISOR TO PARTICIPANT RATIOS FOR BLUE LIGHT EVENTS

GUIDANCE ON THE APPROPRIATE LEVELS OF SUPERVISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

When working with groups of children or young people it's important that there are enough adults to provide the appropriate level of supervision.

Staffing and supervision ratios can sometimes be difficult to judge. It's important that you have enough staff and volunteers to ensure children are safe – and that these adults are suitable to undertake various tasks as needed.

It may not always be possible to adhere to recommended ratios. However, every effort should be made to achieve the best level of supervision of children at all times.

Supervision

Supervision levels will vary depending on the children's age, gender, behaviour and the abilities within your group.

They will also vary depending on:

- nature and duration of activities
- competence and experience of staff involved
- requirements of location, accommodation or organisation
- any special medical needs
- specialist equipment needed.

Taking these into consideration you can then make decisions about the competence and experience of staff and how many adults you need.

Staff and volunteers

Staff and volunteers will need to have:

- an understanding of their responsibility to keep children and young people safe
- current Working With Children Blue Card

Supervisor to participant ratios

QBLAI recommends having at least 2 adult supervisors present when working with or supervising children and young people, regardless of how small the group is. Even though Qld Blue Light has volunteers as young as 15, only adults 18 years and over should be counted in these ratios.

Dance parties & movie nights

- Ratio of 1 Adult Supervisor to 20 Participants. This should be sufficient for indoor events in a controlled environment. For outdoor events the number of supervisors would need to be higher. This would have



to be assessed based on variables such as whether the area is cordoned off, held during the day or night, etc.

Dive in discos & swimming pool events

- Ratio of 1 Adult Supervisor to 5 Participants. A qualified Lifesaver or First Aid Officer should always be present.

Camps & excursions

- Ratio of 1 Adult Supervisor to 8 Participants.

Toilet ratios

- If the group has both boys and girls, there should be at least two male and two female supervisors responsible for supervising visits to the toilet.
- In larger groups of children, encourage bigger groups to take a comfort break together. For example, with a ratio of 2 adults to 10 children where one adult supervises hygiene duties and the other supervises safety and a head count.

Travelling ratios

When travelling with children and young people, the recommended Supervisor to Participant ratio can vary depending on the size of the group, the age of the children and their behaviours and the size of the vehicle that you are travelling in.

- Ratio of 2 Adult Supervisors per vehicle regardless of size of group. One to drive, one to supervise.
- Ratio of 1 Adult Supervisor to 8 Participants for larger vehicles. The two Adult minimum still applies, ie a mini bus with 12 Participants needs 2 Supervisors, once the vehicle holds more than 16 Participants a minimum of 3 Adult Supervisors is required.