



28 July 2020

## **Zodiacs Gymnastics Club Inc. Public Statement: Re- Culture of Gymnastics**

In response to recent news/allegations coming out about the mistreatment of athletes in gymnastics, Zodiacs reassures all of its members that the wellbeing of our gymnasts is of utmost importance and we take our jobs as coaches very seriously. We understand the impact we can have as role models to young people. We want our gymnasts to look back on their gymnastics career fondly and to develop skills that will help them grow into strong, resilient and empowered young people. We are committed to ensuring that the gym is a safe space where our gymnasts feel seen, heard and valued.

We stand with the athletes who are speaking up throughout Australia and worldwide. We think you are all brave and strong. There is no place in our sport for physical, mental and/or emotional abuse. Our development as coaches is never complete and it is crucial that we listen and learn from the past so that we can collectively do better for the future of our sport.

Although we believe that Zodiacs embodies a positive club culture, unless we commit to holding all those within our sport accountable to the same values, we are not doing enough. Publicly acknowledging that this is happening within Clubs worldwide and standing with those who speak up is an important step to make positive change.