

Anglican Church of Australia

Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

CHILD SAFE STANDARDS – BROAD SUMMARY OF THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE

Version 12 February 2018

Victorian organisations that provide services to children are required under the *Child Wellbeing and Child Safety Act 2005* to ensure that they comply with compulsory child safe standards to protect children from harm.

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/the-child-safe-standards/>

In complying with the child safe standards, the following principles apply as part of each standard:

- promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children
- promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- promoting the safety of children with a disability.

We set out below the compulsory standards and in broad outline the Church's response:

STANDARD NO. 1

Create strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, through effective leadership arrangements.

We address this standard at different levels – Church legislation, protocols, clearance requirements, the adoption of child safe practices in the Code of Conduct for Child Safety, effective and ongoing training programmes, the role of the Board of the Melbourne Anglican Diocesan Corporation.

As the Child Safe Policy contemplates, each parish or authorized congregation will be asked to appoint a child safety officer.

At the diocesan level, it is proposed that the Archbishop delegate to one of the assistant bishops specific responsibility for child safety.

STANDARD NO. 2

Create a Child Safe Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety that is relevant to your organisation.

We refer to the Child Safe Policy and Statement of Commitment to Child Safety that have been adopted by the Church since 2009, including the Duty of Care booklet.

STANDARD NO. 3

Organisations must have a code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children.

We refer to the Code of Conduct for Child Safety and the Duty of Care booklet adopted by the Church.

STANDARD NO. 4

Organisations must have screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel.

We refer to the clearance provisions of the Professional Standards legislation of the Church, the Clearance for Ministry Protocol, the Clearance for Service Protocol and the plans to implement these measures. We refer also to the training strategies adopted by the Church.

STANDARD NO. 5

Organisation must have processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse.

We refer to the Professional Standards legislation of the Church, in particular the mandatory reporting and complaints provisions of that legislation.

We also refer to the Complaints Protocol.

STANDARD NO. 6

Organisations must have strategies to identify and reduce or remove the risk of child abuse.

We refer to the Professional Standards legislation of the Church, in particular the mandatory reporting and complaints provisions of that legislation, the requirements of biennial audit of the compliance of the Office of Professional Standards with the provisions of the Professional Standards legislation and protocols.

STANDARD NO. 7

Organisations must have strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children.

We refer to the Code of Conduct for Child Safety and to the strategies underpinning the standards and guidelines concerning treating children with equality and respect. We aim to encourage children to feel comfortable in speaking to leaders about their safety and any concerns they may have.

Important contact numbers

Police
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Child Protection
1300 360 391

Kooyoora
1800 135 246