

Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

Statement of commitment to child safety

Plain language version – 12 October 2021

About this document

This document was written by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

We are committed to child safety. If you work with us and provide ministry to children (people under the age of 18), you must:

- have a clearance for ministry or service
- sign the acknowledgement at the end of this document.

This statement of commitment should be read together with our:

- Safe Ministry Policy
- Code of Conduct for Child Safety
- Guidelines for Child Safety.

Statement of commitment

Our commitment to child safety

We will:

- provide children with safe ministry, in line with our pastoral, biblical, legal and moral responsibilities
- implement policies and practices to ensure the safety and welfare of children
- listen to children and treat them with respect
- identify risks early to prevent child abuse.

Our commitment to the Victorian Child Safe Standards

We will follow the Victorian Child Safe Standards when we work with children in our churches. These standards will help protect children from harm, abuse and inappropriate behaviour by adults.

Your commitment

Please read the following statements and sign the acknowledgement at the end of this document.

Safety and wellbeing

When I work with children, I will:

- be responsible for their safety and wellbeing
- be responsible for following the standards in the Code of Conduct for Child Safety, including all physical and online interactions with children.

Respect

When I work with children, I will:

- provide a welcoming, inclusive and safe environment
- treat them with respect and equality, regardless of race, culture, language, gender, sexuality, sexual identity, religion, disability, or other status.
- involve them in decisions about activities, policies and processes where appropriate.

Reporting

When I work with children, I will:

- report any reasonable belief of child abuse to Victoria Police, Child Protection and Kooyoora, in line with the Diocese's reporting procedure
- ask Kooyoora for advice about reporting obligations if I am worried about a child's safety or risk of abuse.
- talk to a team leader or parish child safety officer if I feel there are any risks to a child's safety in my parish or church community
- give information about my criminal charges or convictions of abuse to Kooyoora straight away.
- participate in the misconduct process if I breach the Professional Standards Uniform Act 2016 (Diocese of Melbourne).

Kooyoora is the Office of Professional Standards for the Diocese.

Online communication

When I work with children, I will:

- get written consent from parents/guardians for online communication with their children
- ensure there is another relevant adult included in private online conversation
- ensure I act and speak appropriately
- keep a record of online communications, for example, times, dates, participants, topics and any proposed actions
- follow procedures about safe online communication with children.

Risk management

When I work with children, I will:

- identify and reduce risks to children in both the physical and online environment
- ensure children can speak up about behaviour that makes them feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

Legal, moral and pastoral obligations

When I work with children, I will:

- follow all relevant legislation (Commonwealth, State and Church), regarding the safety of children
- speak up if I see others behaving in a way that is unsafe or may be a breach of the Code of Conduct for Child Safety
- follow reasonable requests made by my team leader or supervisor about child safety
- provide clearance checks when required
- go to church training when requested.

My behaviour

When I work with children, I will **not**:

- behave in a way that is intended or likely to bully, shame, humiliate or degrade a child
- use offensive, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning, culturally inappropriate or discriminatory language when speaking with a child.
- physically assault or discipline children
- groom children to engage in inappropriate sexual activities
- break the law relating to reportable conduct
- initiate unnecessary physical contact with children
- engage in any form of sexual conduct with children
- give children alcohol or illegal drugs, except wine for Holy Communion
- do activities with children that are illegal or unsafe
- use technology to exploit, harass, sexually abuse or groom a child
- be alone in a motor vehicle with a child unless unavoidable and relevant adults are informed.

Acknowledgement

My role:

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Where I work (parish, group, church):

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I have read and agree with the following documents:

- Safe Ministry Policy
- Code of Conduct for Child Safety
- Guidelines for Child Safety
- Statement of Commitment

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Witness Name:

Witness Signature: