

Culture of Safety

Contact Person

Role Description



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

**Keeping
Children
Safe**



Statement of Commitment

All children involved in any of the Church's activities, events or programs have a right to feel and be safe. The Church is committed to providing safe environments where children are cared for, respected, nurtured and sustained.

Abuse thrives on secrecy. To prevent child abuse across the Church, we are committed to developing and maintaining an open and aware culture.

The Church is committed to the creation and maintenance of a child-safe culture to ensure the care, protection and safety of all children engaging with the Church and any of its entities.

We will do all in our power to safeguard children from all forms of abuse. The Church clearly affirms that we are subject to upholding legislation and processes as prescribed by law. This includes the requirement to report abuse.

Purpose of the role

The Culture of Safety Contact Person is the primary point of contact for anyone concerned about issues relating to the safety of children. To ensure the congregation is a safe place for all children by building awareness in the congregation around what is required to be a safe church.

Characteristics of the Contact Person

The Culture of Safety Contact Person should be someone who:

- Is approachable and available
- Has attended or will attend within three months of appointment the Safe Church Training
- Has some awareness/empathy with the context of abuse
- Is someone children and people with concerns feel able to approach
- Is (or is willing to become) familiar with the Synod reporting processes
- Is in a position to advise Church Council
- Will communicate with the Culture of Safety unit as required, especially when there is a concern

General duties of the role

- Have contact with children, young people, their families and others who may raise concerns about safety.
- Promote awareness of and adherence to the Synod's Keeping Children Safe policy, Code of Conduct and related procedures and practices.
- When a concern is raised, ensure that the processes outlined in the Synod document 'Responding to and reporting disclosures of abuse' are followed.
- Provide guidance and advice on Safe Church matters to Church Council as necessary.
- Provide support (pastoral, referral to counselling, etc) for any person affected when a concern is raised.

The Culture of Safety Person should be appointed by the Church Council using appropriate screening processes.

Document Review History

Version Number	Date	Reason	Develop by	Approved
SCT1v1	02.11.2016	Created to support Keeping Children Safe Policy, Overseeing CSS and Selecting leaders and helpers processes	Document generously provided by UCA Queensland Synod modified for Synod of Victoria and Tasmania	Associate General Secretary
Due	01.10.2017	Review cycle – every year		