

# Information sheet for parents and guardians



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

**Keeping  
Children  
Safe**



As a Christian community, we believe that all people, including children, are made in the image of God. We believe that God reaches out to us in love and acceptance, and that our relationships with each other should express love, care and respect. We believe that every person is precious to God, and in following Jesus' example we engage in ministry practices which reflect these values and are compliant with the requirements of law.

Our congregation has adopted the Synod's policy: **Keeping Children Safe** and will work within its processes to assist us to achieve this goal. The policy is available at <http://ucavictas.org.au/keepingchildrensafe>

We aim to keep children in the Church safe from harm. We:

- provide physical environments that are clean, well-maintained and free from hazards
- conduct activities that are appropriate for the age and abilities of the child
- screen the people who want to work with children and provide those approved with ongoing training, oversight and support
- model appropriate behaviour, including spoken word, engagement in social media and physical actions, at all times
- encourage people to speak up, raise concerns and provide feedback. This helps us to know when people are feeling safe and when they are not.

We have a system for handling concerns regarding children. Our document **Keeping Children Safe: Responding to and reporting Child Abuse** outlines how matters are handled, and who to go to for help. The policy, process and complaint forms are available at <http://ucavictas.org.au/keepingchildrensafe>. Alternatively you may report abuse by calling 1300 789 374. This number is unattended; your message will be converted to text and emailed to someone who will contact you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to ask the minister of our congregation or presbytery. Alternatively you may contact [cultureofsafetycontact@victas.uca.org.au](mailto:cultureofsafetycontact@victas.uca.org.au)

We trust and pray that your relationship with our congregation is uplifting, enriching and safe.

## Document Review History

Version Number	Date	Reason	Developed By	Approved
SPSP7V1	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
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