



Child Safe Standards For Faith Communities

Victorian Council of Churches

- For further queries you can email the CSS Project Worker on vcc@vcc.org.au
- The Training Portal, Toolkit and resources are available at www.childsafestandards.org.au

- The VCC have a dedicated help line for Faith Communities on 03 9650 4511



New Resources Available

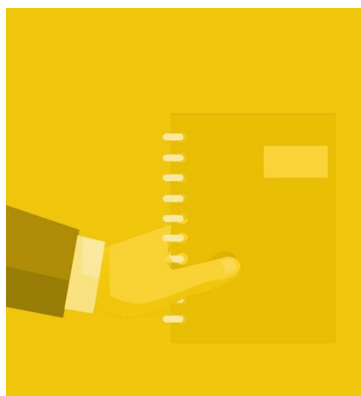
The Child Safe Standards have been enforced for over a month now and we are receiving emails from Faith Communities which need further support. To this end we have prepared some wonderful new resources. We are in the final stages of developing a five minute video that Faith Communities can show to their congregations to explain the Seven Child Safe Standards, why they need to comply to them and what they need to do about them. We also have developed a PowerPoint presentation called Where Do I begin? which accompanies the Where Do I begin? checklist. We have also created two new brochures, the first explaining the Training Portal for Faith Communities (the Child Safe Standards website). The other further explaining Standard One and explaining the difference between “Cultural Safety” and “a culture of child safety”.

We have also had many emails request editable copies of our sample documents which are found on the “All Resources” page of the website. We are happy to send these out to you, however, it is important to modify these documents to reflect your particular Faith Community, rather than just adding your Faith Community’s name to the document.

Focus on Child Safe Standard 3: A Code of Conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children

It is important to provide clear written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children.

A Code of Conduct lists behaviours that are acceptable and that are unacceptable. It states professional boundaries, ethical behaviour, and acceptable and unacceptable relationships.



Your Code of Conduct enables you to take action if someone is behaving in an unacceptable manner. Without it, it can be very difficult to raise issues with staff and volunteers.

It is vital to act on concerns or allegations of adherence to your Faith Community’s Code of Conduct.



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An excerpt from a media release

Media Release

Jenny Mikakos MLC
Minister for Families & Children
Minister for Youth Affairs



Friday, 1 January, 2016

NEW CHILD SAFE STANDARDS TAKE EFFECT TODAY

New legislation introduced by the Andrews Labor Government will take effect today to ensure organisations that deal with children have appropriate and consistent measures in place to prevent and respond to allegations of child abuse.

Minister for Families and Children Jenny Mikakos said the standards will drive cultural change in organisations so that protecting children from abuse is embedded in everyday thinking and practice.

From today the standards will apply to organisations that provide services for children and receive government funding or are covered by regulation or contractual requirements, such as hospitals, schools and early childhood services.

From 1 January 2017 they will apply to all other organisations that provide services or facilities for children but receive little or no government funding, such as sporting groups and child entertainment providers.

The standards were developed after extensive consultation with around 160 community sector and government stakeholders. They are backed up by comprehensive guidance materials, information sessions and templates and tools so organisations can create and maintain a safe environment for children.



Child Safety is Everyone's Business!

Each Faith Community should have a Code of Conduct that explains appropriate behaviour of the leaders, volunteers and children.

It is important to educate staff, volunteers, parents and children about what the expected standards of behaviour are and what will happen if a person does not comply.

The Code of Conduct should be well known by faith leaders, volunteers, children

and families. They should understand the procedures in place for any breaches to the Code of Conduct.

It will help if you provide opportunities for staff, volunteers, and children to contribute to the Code of Conduct to assist in building ownership.

There are many helpful sample documents available to help you comply with Standard 3 which are FREE to download from the Child Safe Standards website www.childsafestandards.org.au

Commission for Children and Young People

- Additional resources and tools are available www.ccp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/
- The CCYP have a dedicated help line on 03 8601 5281
- For further queries you can email the CCYP on childsafestandards@ccyp.vic.gov.au

“A Code of Conduct lists behaviours that are acceptable and those that are unacceptable. It states professional boundaries, ethical behaviour and acceptable and unacceptable relationships. When staff, volunteers, parent and children are clear about expectations, they are more likely to act appropriately with each other.”

(Commission for Children and Young People (2015), A guide for creating a child safe organisation 2.0, pg 26).