

Standards for Safe Church Programs

A. An introductory workshop

Module 1 - Key concepts in protecting vulnerable people

- a) Overview of program
- b) Opportunity is given to explore the expectations of participants
- c) Pastoral support for the participants made available
- d) OH&S issues for presenting workshops
- e) Duty of care, ethical/legal/moral
- f) Christian leaders; relationship boundaries and use of power
- g) Values and attitudes towards children and the vulnerable

Module 2 - Child Protection & Vulnerable people

- a) Identifying Suspected abuse/risk of harm
 - i) Perceptions about abuse
 - ii) Facts and information about abuse
 - iii) Definitions and indicators
 - iv) Local (state) grounds for reporting
- b). Responding to abuse
 - i) Appropriate response to disclosures
 - ii) State government requirements including: relevant legislation & Mandatory notification
 - iii) Denominational requirements: including reporting: when, how and to whom & Notification (reporting) documentation.

Module 3 - Christian Leaders Good practice guidelines for safe leaders

- a) Safe place behaviours, e.g. safe touch, discipline, language, addressing social and cultural diversity issues
- b) Procedures for recruitment and ongoing supervision of leaders, including appointment (screening), induction and Supervision of leaders (codes of conduct)

Module 4 - Safe Programs

- Guidelines for safe practices in:
- a) OH&S (managing risks)
 - b) Obtaining information, e.g. health/medical, permission forms
 - c) Critical incidents/emergencies
 - d) First aid
 - e) Food handling/ hygiene
 - f) Transport
 - g) Group supervision
 - f) Age specific information
- NB: Participant workbook required (resource material, case studies)

B. Additional support to ministry policy decision-makers:

1. Policy information about denominational requirements: e.g. Safe Church (Child Protection) policy
2. Procedures for recruitment and ongoing supervision of leaders

C. Refresher Workshops:

System for refresher workshops is in place (see Best Practice for Refresher Workshop)