



National Council of
Churches in Australia

NCCA 10th National Forum
21 - 24 June 2019
Australian Centre for Christianity & Culture
Barton, Canberra ACT

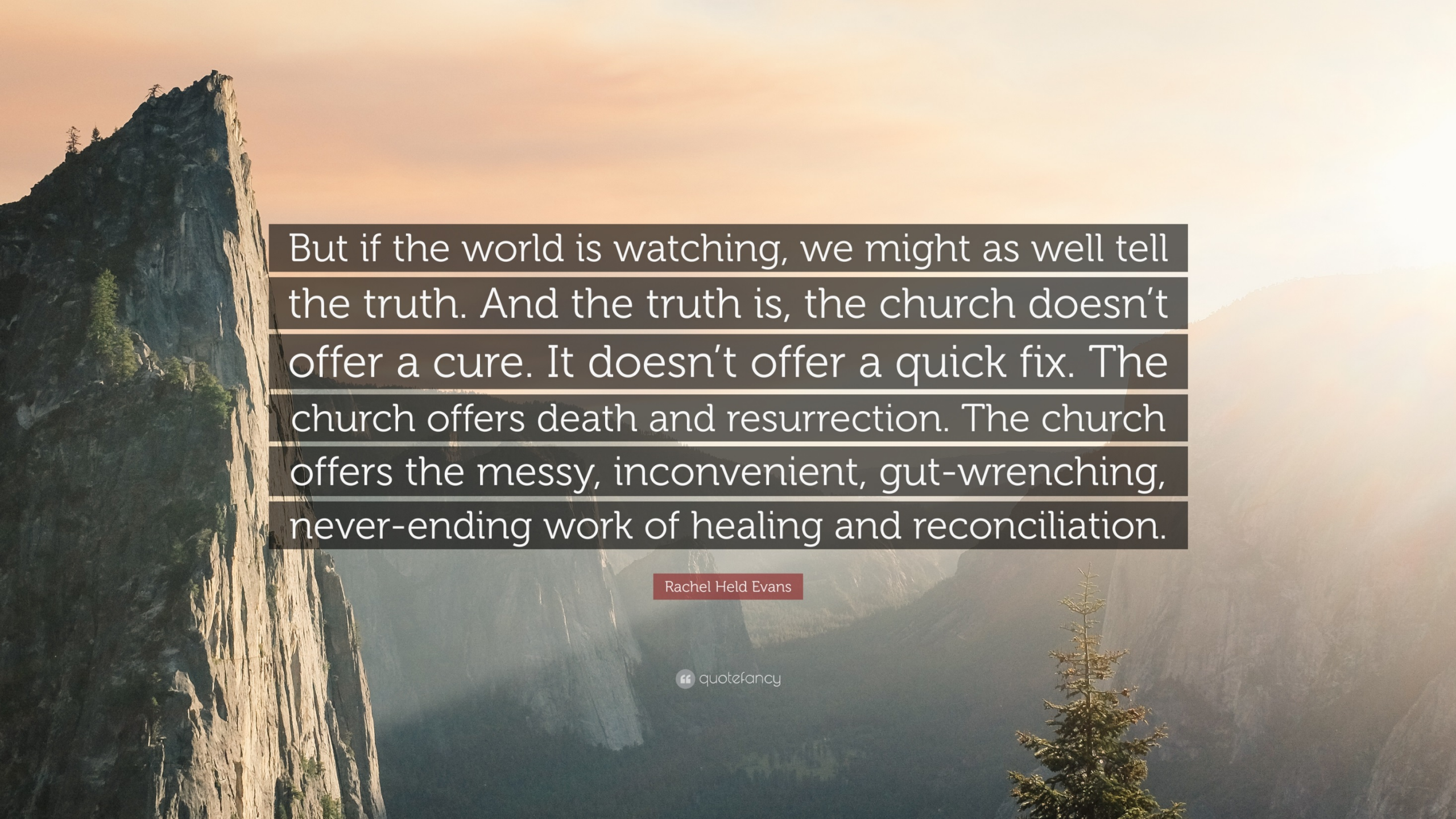
Safe Church Program-6.0

Laura Cregan- National Coordinator



AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR
CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE

WISDOM FOR THE COMMON GOOD

A scenic view of a mountain peak at sunset, with a quote overlaid on a dark background. The quote is: "But if the world is watching, we might as well tell the truth. And the truth is, the church doesn't offer a cure. It doesn't offer a quick fix. The church offers death and resurrection. The church offers the messy, inconvenient, gut-wrenching, never-ending work of healing and reconciliation."

But if the world is watching, we might as well tell the truth. And the truth is, the church doesn't offer a cure. It doesn't offer a quick fix. The church offers death and resurrection. The church offers the messy, inconvenient, gut-wrenching, never-ending work of healing and reconciliation.

Rachel Held Evans

ENCOURAGING – building ecumenical trust, ecumenical formation

WITNESSING TOGETHER – prophetic voice, public voice

CONNECTION AND FELLOWSHIP – promote relationships, joint activities

ENABLING AND RESOURCING – governance, management and financing.

- Australian Churches are challenged to embark on historic change and the NCCA /Safe Church Program has a key role to play:
- **The final Royal Commission report stated:**
- “... the National Council of Churches in Australia [is] well positioned to work proactively with the independent oversight bodies to ensure that individual religious institutions are able to comply with the requirements.” ***Volume 16, Religious Institutions (Book 3, page 293)***
- What NCCA does in response to the Royal Commission needs to flow out of the objects of its Constitution (The Why) and be consistent with its culture / strengths (The How).

Transforming Discipleship: 'Mission as Turning the World Upside Down'

'Mission from the Margins'-

- Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse-Already Undertaken
- Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety-current
- Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability-current
- Royal Commission into Family Violence-Already undertaken

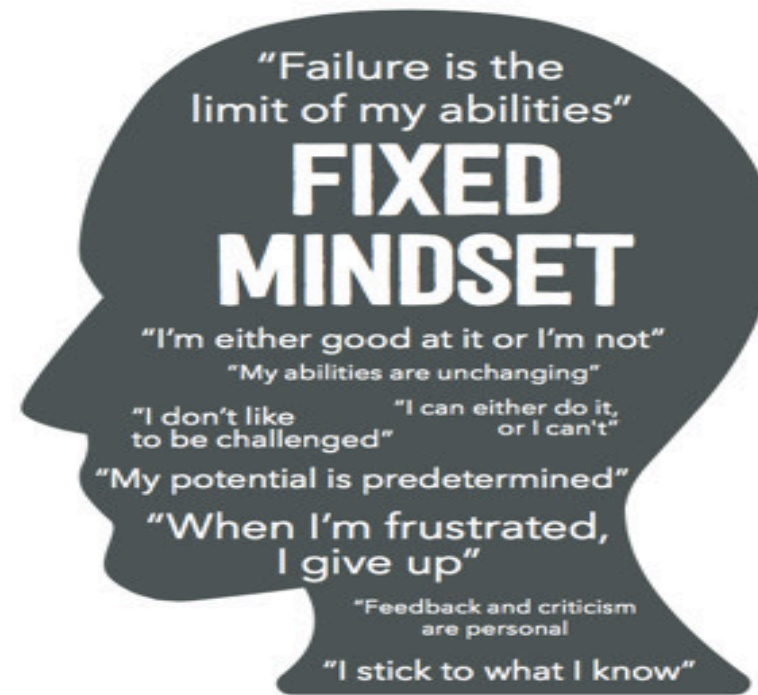
Future Context: Opportunity for expansion of Safe Church Portfolio

Why is the NCCA operating a Safe Church Programme?

- We refer back to the objects of the NCCA constitution as the reference point.
- 7.01 The objects of the NCCA are:
 - b] to encourage and enable the member churches in the light of the Gospel to give prophetic leadership to each other and the community by
 - i] developing a deeper understanding of evangelism/Australia's cultural context;
 - ii] addressing moral issues;
 - iii] speaking out on behalf of oppressed people;
 - iv] acting in solidarity with Aboriginal and Islander people; and
 - v] responding to human need and acting on issues of justice, peace and creation;

Current resource's are stretched (What):

- Advocacy and engagement with National Office for Child Safety, state and territory oversight bodies-National Coordinators time will increase increase
- Current Safe Church Program membership list- continually growing, smaller under resourced churches are joining up
- Train the Trainer-growth across all states and territories is in demand
- Demand for resourcing-Resource and workbooks-needs continual updating
- Safe Church Program Framework and standards –document is in draft
- National Conference –resource heavy



How will we choose to respond?

What resources will be needed?

What resources are we collectively willing to contribute?

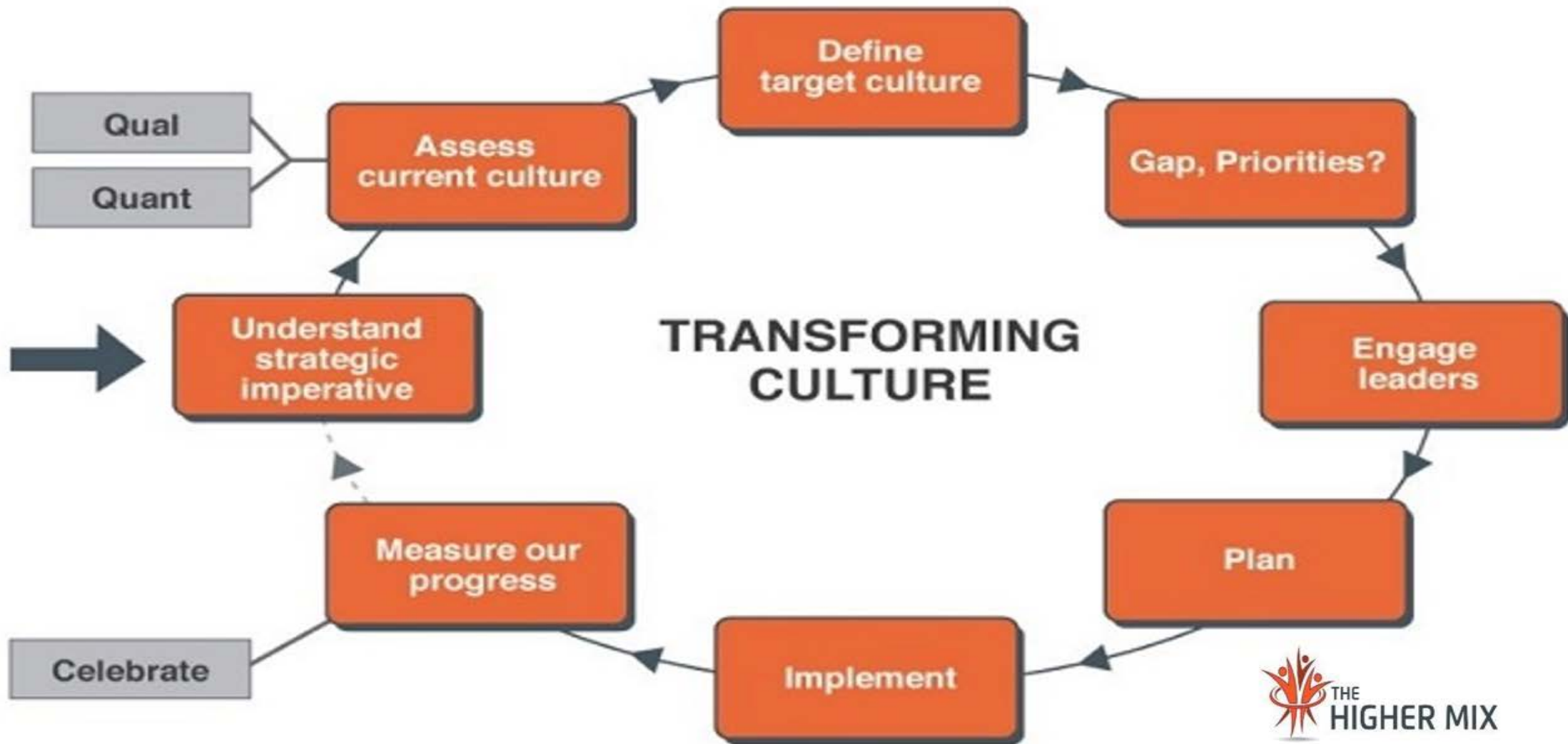
Recommendations

(Gen Sec report 6_0)

9.1 Forum affirms the continued development of the revised Safe Church Program framework and standards. This work includes consultation with the National Office for Child Safety, state and territory regulatory bodies and NCCA Safe Church Program member churches who have already commenced the work of developing safeguarding frameworks.

9.2 Forum affirms continued roll-out of Train the Trainer events, Safe Church Awareness Workbooks and development of training resources with consideration for the employment of a Trainer

9.3 Forum affirms the expansion of the Safe Church Program Portfolio to include advocacy and engagement on Family and Domestic Violence and Ageing and Disability.



Discussion Questions

1. Assessing current culture-What is the culture of the NCCA? (Networking and advocacy?)
2. Defining target culture-How do we go about doing this together? What do we need to embrace, or what do we need to let go of to move forward?
3. Gaps priorities-What priorities can the safe church program include in the future-i.e. numerous royal commission including aging and disability. Family and domestic violence
4. Engaging leaders-We are open to ideas here- if we are to move in the spirit with discernment what are our thoughts here on resourcing and priorities?



National Council of
Churches in Australia
Safe Church Program



**Safe Church
Training Agreement**

An initiative of the National Council of Churches in Australia
www.ncccchurches.org.au



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NCCA Triennial Forum – 21-24 June 2019



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