

To report concerns about the immediate safety of a child phone the Police 131 444.

To report concerns about the safety of a child, call the relevant child Protection Crisis Line:

NT—Child Protection Reporting Line 1800 700 250

WA—Central Intake Team 1800 273 889

SA—Department for Child Protection 131 478

Adults reporting historical child abuse

The Uniting Church encourages adults to report alleged abuse directly to the police. If an adult discloses alleged abuse to you support them in exploring the options for making a report and for receiving support. If the alleged abuser is a Minister, a member, a leader or a volunteer in the Uniting Church encourage the person to make a report to the Synod General Secretary.

Support for parents and children

Parents who have made complaints and children who have been allegedly abused will be supported by referral to agreed support and counselling services.



Media enquiries

All media enquiries as a consequence of situations of abuse or critical events should be responded to only by a spokesperson designated by the Uniting Church Synod General Secretary.

Further assistance

Safe Church policies at:
www.ns.uca.org.au/child-safe-church/

Email: safechurch@ns.uca.org.au

Phone: 08 8982 3400



The Uniting Church in Australia Northern Synod

2 Railway Street
Parap NT 0821

Phone: 08 8982 3400
Website: <http://ns.uca.org.au>
Email: safechurch@ns.uca.org.au

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The Uniting Church in Australia Northern Synod



Creating a Safe Environment for Children in our Church



Safe Church in the Northern Synod

Creating a Safe Environment



The Uniting Church in Australia is committed to safeguarding those with whom we are in relationship. This means working with children and young people so they feel and are safe and supported. It means leading in ways which ensure the wellbeing of others is our priority.

The Uniting Church in Australia Northern Synod has developed policies to provide a framework for this commitment. This means we have an ethical, moral and legal responsibility to provide safe leaders, safe programs and safe places.

These policies are available on the Synod website: ns.uca.org.au/child-safe-church/

We commit to being a community which:

- provides and maintains a welcoming and safe environment
- offers suitable and well-equipped leadership
- provides resourcing which reflects the value of all people, in particular children
- provides clear and appropriate guidelines for managing the safety of all

This commitment to safeguarding children from harm or abuse applies to all members, officers, volunteers and attendees of the Church.

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is any act that endangers the child's physical, mental, emotional or spiritual well-being or development. These may be things people do to children or things they fail to do for them. Abuse happens when people in positions of trust and power abuse that trust and use their power to harm children.

Our principles for keeping children safe

The Church is committed to creating a safe environment for children through the following principles.

1. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organization leadership, governance and culture
2. Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously
3. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing
4. Diversity is respected and equity promoted
5. Our people are suitable for work with children and committed to values of child safety and wellbeing
6. Child focused complaints processes
7. Our people are provided with ongoing education and training on child safety

8. Physical and online environments promote safety
9. Policies and procedures document child safety
10. Review and continuous improvement of policy, procedure and practice

How to handle disclosures of abuse

Listen .. do not add anything to what the child says

Reassure .. the child they have done the right thing in speaking with you

Inform .. the child you need to tell people who can help

Ensure .. the child is not in immediate danger

Act .. by reporting the matter to the authorities.

How to report

Report all disclosures from children and young people alleging harm, abuse or neglect to Child Protection Services, Police **and** the Synod General Secretary.

To report concerns that are life threatening phone Police on 000.