

Media enquiries

All media enquiries as a consequence of incidences of abuse or critical events should be responded to only by a spokesperson designated by the Synod General Secretary, ph 08 8982 3400.

For additional 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



Creating a Safe Environment for Vulnerable Adults in our Church

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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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 ensuring all people feel safe, are safe, and are 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
- provides clear and appropriate guidelines for managing the safety of all people.

This commitment to safeguarding vulnerable people from harm or abuse applies to all members, leaders, volunteers and attendees of the Church.

Who is a vulnerable adult?

A vulnerable adult is a person who may be susceptible to abuse or exploitation based on factors such as their health status (physical or mental), age, grief, social isolation or financial hardship. Vulnerability can be temporary or permanent. Every adult may be vulnerable at some time.

Our principles for keeping vulnerable adults safe

The Church is committed to creating a safe environment for vulnerable people by:

1. identifying vulnerable adults present in congregations, faith communities, agencies, schools and others who may have contact with Northern Synod ministries,
2. promoting and implementing a Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Abuse which applies to all people who have contact with vulnerable adults,
3. holding all people accountable to the relevant Code of Conduct and other reasonable expectations of behaviour in relation to vulnerable adults,

4. responding promptly to abuse, bullying or other inappropriate behaviour to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults,
5. ensuring all leaders and volunteers use appropriate physical interactions with vulnerable adults,
6. communicating openly and honestly using methods accessible to the vulnerable adult,
7. including vulnerable people in decisions affecting them,
8. respecting diversity and ensuring equity in all areas,
9. implementing safe church recruitment processes,
10. providing safe people, programs and spaces for vulnerable adults,
11. having accessible complaint processes, together with an awareness of the need to report harm or suspected harm to a vulnerable person,
12. promoting open, honest, transparent and accountable processes .