



## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

### 1: Our Commitment

We want everyone who joins in anything we do in the Queanbeyan Uniting congregation to know they are safe, valued and respected. While people who are frail, aged or who have a disability need to be confident about this, we are especially committed to make sure children among us receive such care and respect as they grow towards their full potential in Christ. We fully accept our legal responsibilities concerning children, and this policy says what we will do. It applies to all who are actively involved in any of our activities with children.

### 2: Participation

We will help children to join in whatever we do wherever they can and will listen to what they have to say - especially about things which directly affect them.

### 3: Leaders and Helpers

We need all who work with children to accept and demonstrate the values in our policy, and will ensure they have both a mentor to support them and training to guide them. This training will include child protection reporting requirements, which we ask them to observe. We ask leaders and helpers always to respect children's privacy and to minimize one-to-one situations where children are left alone with adults for extended periods.

### 4: Activities

We want children to enjoy themselves, but will take care that all planned activities are safe and appropriate to their ages and abilities. We will discourage any excessive physical contact, bullying, favouritism, sexual innuendo and abusive discipline.

### 5: Transport

We will take care to ensure transport to activities is legitimate, safe and responsible, and is only provided with parental permission.

### 6: Child Protection

We will appoint a Church Safety Contact Person to manage the working of our policy and to deal with any issues arising from concerns that any child or young person (up to 18 years) is at risk.

### 7: Legal and Church Council Requirements

State law requires all leaders and helpers working with children to sign a form to say they have not been convicted of any of a list of offences. The Church Safety Contact Person will help all our volunteers to work through this process, and will look after the completed forms. Paid staff must have a Working With Children Police Check before commencing their jobs.

The Council greatly values the work of our volunteers in both leading and helping and asks everyone to:

- read our policy and tell us they will work within it by signing our Code of Conduct Declaration;
- sign the Government form 'Volunteer/Student Declaration';
- after initial training, attend a refresher course every three years; and
- bring any concerns about children at risk to the immediate attention of their mentor, leader or Safe Church Contact Person.