

## **Code of Conduct for Working with Children, Young People & other Vulnerable People**

Everyone who attends our churches needs to be confident that they will be cared for, nurtured and encouraged as they grow and at the same time, protected from physical, mental or emotional harm. We want everyone who comes to our churches or who in some manner interacts with our church communities, to acknowledge them as safe places.

Leaders and helpers need to be accountable to their team and be open to correction and humble enough to modify behaviours so as not to discredit the gospel.

This code provides a clear set of behavioural 'DOs and DON'Ts', to define what is acceptable and what is unacceptable conduct for lay and ordained leaders and helpers in Christian ministry.

### **DO:**

- Provide a positive role model for children and young people and those who care for them.
- Treat children, young people and other vulnerable people with respect, listen to and value their ideas and opinions.
- Carefully plan all activities and programs to provide for safety, developmental needs and life experiences.
- Respect the privacy of participants in programs and those with whom you have a pastoral relationship, and their families, and only disclose information to people who have a need to know.
- Report any concerns you have that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm or abuse.
- Get parent's permission before providing transport. Inform parents if it is possible you will be alone in a car at any time with their child.
- Be aware of the need to ensure appropriate boundaries are maintained when pastorally caring for a person who may be vulnerable.

### **DO NOT:**

- Engage in any activity with a child, young person or other vulnerable person that is likely to physically or emotionally harm them.
- Use any form of physical force or harsh verbal language as discipline.
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact or do things of a personal nature that a child

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- Develop 'special' relationships with specific children, young people or other vulnerable people for your own needs.
- Show favouritism through the provision of gifts or inappropriate attention.
- Make sexually suggestive comments, even as a joke.
- Be alone for more than a very short time with a child or young person. (Always ensure another adult is present or within view when conducting one-to-one interviews. Take a group of children to the toilet rather than one child on their own.)
- Seat a child or young person in the front seat of your car when you are travelling alone with them.
- Take a child or young person to your home, or encourage meetings, without others present.

This Code of Conduct was adopted by the Church Council on 2 September 2013.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT DECLARATION**

I .....

*(print name)*

**have read the Policy and Code of Conduct for working with children, young people and other vulnerable people involved in Queanbeyan Uniting Church activities.**

**I understand my responsibilities in working with children and young people and will work within this policy and Code of Conduct.**

**If I breach this Code in any way, for any reason, I must inform my supervisor or other Senior Leader of my actions and the reasons for them.**

**Signed:**

.....

**Witness:**

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*(signature)*

**Name of Witness:**

.....

*(print name)*

**Date:**.....

This policy was adopted by the QUC Church Council on 8 November 2011.