



Information sheet for parents and guardians

TOO-SMC-03.2_v1.0

The Uniting Church in Australia (the Church) believes that all people, including children, are made in the image of God. As a Christian community we believe that God reaches out to us in love and acceptance, and that our relationships with each other should express love, care and respectⁱ. We believe that every person is precious to God, and in following Jesus' example we engage in ministry practices which reflect these values and are compliant with the requirements of lawⁱⁱ.

Our congregation has adopted the Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod (the Synod) policy: Safe Ministry with Children, a culture of shared guardianship and will work within its processes to assist us to achieve this goal. The policy is available at ucaqld.com.au

As we work to develop an extended network of guardianship, we aim to keep children in the church safe from harm. We have systems in place to help us:

- provide physical environments that are clean, well-maintained and free from hazards
- conduct activities that are appropriate for the age and abilities of the child
- screen the people who want to work with children and provide those who are approved with ongoing training, oversight and support
- maintain behaviours that are within the range of acceptable actions and interrupt boundary violations (inappropriate behaviours)
- encourage people to speak up, raise concerns and provide feedback. This helps us to know when people are feeling safe and when they are not.

We have a system for handling concernsⁱⁱⁱ regarding children. Our document Complaints/allegations – CHILD^{iv} outlines how matters are handled, and who to go to for help. The policy, process and complaint forms are available at ucaqld.com.au. Alternatively you may report abuse by calling 1800 586 591. If this number is unattended, your message will be converted to text and emailed to someone who will contact you as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to ask the minister of our congregation or presbytery. Alternatively you may contact childsafe@ucaqld.com.au

We trust and pray that your relationship with our congregation is uplifting, enriching and safe.

ⁱ Safe Place Position Statement developed by the Uniting Church in Australia Commission on Women and Men, 1997

ⁱⁱ *Working With Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (the Act) and *Working With Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulations 2011* (the Regulations)

^{iv} Complaints/allegations - CHILD

Document Review History

Version Number	Date	Reason	Aurthor/reviewer	Approved
1.0	09.02.2016	Created to support Safe Ministry with Children policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Ministry (children) administrator • General counsel • Risk & Insurance manager 	Associate general secretary
Due	09.02.2017	Review cycle – every year		