



10 September 2024

Dear Church family,

Over the past week you will have likely read the media coverage involving the Uniting Church, one of our early learning centres, and Ashley Griffith, who recently pleaded guilty to more than 300 charges related to crimes against children over many years.

This matter continues to be deeply shocking and distressing for us all – our families and workers in early childcare and for you our ministry leaders and church members.

Our commitment as a church to the safety and well-being of children and vulnerable individuals remains unwavering. We share in the pain and heartbreak experienced by our community when any child is harmed.

We are deeply committed as a Church to the welfare of all children in our care and have strong child protection policies and procedures across all our network, including our childcare centres.

Last week was National Child Protection Week and the theme was focused around 'Every Conversation Matters', emphasising the power of conversations to keep children and young people safe and well. As your Moderator I have spoken out publicly and reaffirmed our commitment to creating safe places for children and adults.

I recognise that coverage of the story over the past week may be triggering for some people. If you are distressed by this news and need to discuss it with someone, please reach out to your local Minister or pastoral leader. You can also contact 24/7 confidential support services such as Lifeline on 13 11 14.

In line with our Church policies and procedures with respect to child safety, should you ever see, hear, or even suspect that the safety and wellbeing of a child or vulnerable individual in our care is at risk, you should immediately report your concerns via the following:

- Safe Church - 07 3377 9823 or safechurch@ucaqld.com.au
- Complaints - 1800 586 591
- Protecht incident reporting platform on the Hub - <https://hub.ucaqld.com.au/resources/safe-church/>

Lastly, I invite you to join me in prayer for the families and children affected by these events, for the dedicated childcare staff who work diligently to ensure children's safety, and for the exceptional law enforcement personnel involved in this challenging work.

Grace & peace to you all,

Rev Bruce Moore
Moderator

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh
General Secretary