

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF RIVERINA - SAFE CHURCH TRAINING AGREEMENT (SCTA)

Aim, Values and Objectives

Aim

The SCTA aims provide a mechanism for facilitating collaborative, quality Safe Church Awareness Training within the Australian Christian church context, and by so doing, make Australian Churches safer places.

Key Values:

- The protection of the rights of children and vulnerable people through the promotion of safe and friendly ministry environments.
- The kingdom work of helping Christian communities to become safer places for ministry
- Recognition and respect for the differences between churches/denominations/dioceses/Christian organisations across Australia
- The embracing of commonality and National Standards of best practice for Safe Church training
- A focus on leaders having a Christ-like attitude and behaviour in Christian ministry (appropriateness for service)

Objectives

To make Australian churches safer places the SCTA will:

- provide National Standards for Safe Church programs
- facilitate the ongoing task of educating leaders (volunteer and paid) in how to manage risks that arise in their organizations
- facilitate the training of greater numbers of leaders (volunteer and paid) in order to minimize the risk, potential, and intensity of abuse cases and duty of care failures
- increase awareness of the shared responsibility of all in church communities to respond to abuse and duty of care issues
- keep SCTA members up to date with new challenges (e.g. technology driven) and changes (e.g. legislative) that arise in this area of child protection and duty of care (risk management)
- facilitate regular, easily accessible, and endorsed Safe Church training courses in all regions of Australia
- eliminate the duplication of training caused by the geographical and denominational relocation of leaders (volunteer and paid)
- provide a national training information system for Safe Church training
- provide web-based resources for Endorsed Training Partners

Standards for Safe Church Programs

A. An introductory workshop:

Module 1 - Key concepts in protecting vulnerable people

- a) Overview of program
- b) Opportunity is given to explore the expectations of participants
- c) Pastoral support for the participants made available
- d) OH&S issues for presenting workshops
- e) Duty of care, ethical/legal/moral
- f) Christian leaders; relationship boundaries and use of power
- g) Values and attitudes towards children and the vulnerable

Module 2 - Child Protection & Vulnerable people

- a) Identifying Suspected abuse/risk of harm
 - i) Perceptions about abuse
 - ii) Facts and information about abuse
 - iii) Definitions and indicators
 - iv) Local (state) grounds for reporting
- b). Responding to abuse
 - i) Appropriate response to disclosures
 - ii) State government requirements including: Relevant legislation & Mandatory notification
 - ii) Denominational requirements: including Reporting: when, how and to whom & Notification (reporting) documentation

Module 3 - Christian Leaders Good practice guidelines for safe leaders

- a) Safe place behaviours, e.g. safe touch, discipline, language, addressing social and cultural diversity issues
- b) Procedures for recruitment and ongoing supervision of leaders, including appointment (screening), induction and Supervision of leaders (codes of conduct)

Module 4 - Safe Programs

Guidelines for safe practices in:

- a) OH&S (managing risks)
- b) Obtaining information, e.g. health/medical, permission forms
- c) Critical incidents/emergencies
- d) First aid
- e) Food handling/ hygiene
- f) Transport
- g) Group supervision
- f) Age specific information

NB: Participant workbook required (resource material, case studies)

B. Additional support to ministry policy decision-makers:

1. Policy information about denominational requirements: e.g. Safe Church (Child Protection) policy
2. Procedures for recruitment and ongoing supervision of leaders

C. Refresher Workshops:

System for refresher workshops is in place (see Best Practice for Refresher Workshops)