

Child Safe Protocols

Ensuring safety for children and vulnerable people

Providing a safe environment and ensuring safe practices of ministry where children and vulnerable people are concerned in all our ministries and activities as a church is of the highest priority. In response to changes in State Government legislation and in the light of the recent Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse, the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne (ADOM) has set new standards in place for every Anglican parish and entity. The care, the safety, and the welfare of children at St Michael's North Carlton is of the greatest concern and our policies, protocols, education, and practices reflect our commitment to zero tolerance of child abuse.

By following the recommendations and requirements from the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) our parish has developed the following ways to help us all church members to create and maintain a safe environment for children and vulnerable people. Protocols and procedures listed below have been developed with reference to:

- The code of conduct and child safe policy posted on the church website;
- A Guide to Creating a Child Safe Organization (CCYP);
- A 312-question self-assessment questionnaire (CCYP);
- "Power and Trust" education for clergy and church workers (ADOM).

Education and Training Creating and maintaining safety for children and vulnerable people is not only a matter of compliance to law and prescribed standards. Instead, our parish is committed to developing the best policies and practices possible as a sign to the wider community that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is Good News to all.

In 2022 those taking part in various ministry roles in the parish that involve direct contact with children or vulnerable people must comply with training, accreditation, and clearances that meet the highest standards set by the State Government and ADOM. The education and training component of our child safe procedures is provided by ADOM and helps to promote an awareness and culture for the safest environment possible in all aspects of ministry. The education involves online learning modules using video clips, interactive exercises, and collaborative investigation into the 7 standards of child safety recommended by the CCYP.

- All church members are invited and welcome to take part in any one of the online education units.
- All those involved in a rostered ministry will be required to undertake Level 1 of the online training.
- Those whose ministry involves direct contact with children will be required to undertake Levels 1 and 2 of the online training and must hold a current Working With Children card from the State Government and a current National Police Check. They must also seek formal clearance for ministry from Kooyoora (an independent integrity investigator).
- Officers of the church, such as Parish Council members, will be required to undertake Level 1 and 3 of the online training (and Level 2 if their ministries also involve direct contact with children).
- Clergy and authorised ministers of the church must undertake all levels of training, accreditation, and clearance.

By engaging in this education process together we can learn how best to create and maintain the safest possible environment for any children or vulnerable people in our church community.