



Child Protection Policy

LCA_SA/NT_POL_HSE_002

The Lutheran Church of Australia SA/NT District (the Church) recognises the vulnerability of children and young people and their right to be safe; and is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all its members, leaders and particularly to children and young people.

The core beliefs of the Church require us to treat all people with love and dignity and to care for those who are less powerful and in need of nurture and protection.

We believe that ...

- as a community of God's people, it takes a proactive and sharing approach to create a child safe environment that focuses on preventative actions
- the safety and wellbeing of those in our care is a primary consideration when developing activities, policies and programs for children and young people
- children and young people should not be those without a voice. Their opinions and views should be heard, valued and embraced
- our programs should encourage, assist and empower children and young people to build skills that will add to the environment of care and belonging that is helpful in their development going forward.

We are committed to ...

- providing a safe place for children and young people by having robust policies, procedures and programs in place that proactively take action to protect them from physical, sexual, emotional; and psychological abuse and neglect
- advocating for children and young people within our caring church communities and providing them with a voice that is heard
- creating a child safe environment which is both child-safe and child-friendly, where they feel respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential as God's children.

To achieve this we will

- maintain and continuously improve our processes for recruitment and training of people who work with children and young people
- provide effective vetting, supervision and reporting procedures to ensure integrity of this policy
- provide effective response procedures where the expectations of this policy is not met
- as a minimum, comply with relevant legislative requirements.

It is all of our responsibility to care for and protect the children and young people in our care, irrespective of how small or large our role is.

LCA SA/NT District Church Council
October 2011