

Safe Church Policy

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West Ryde Community Church



About this document:

This document describes our commitment to ensure that all ministries are conducted in an emotionally and physically safe way where all people are respected and have their views and opinions valued at all times.

This document has been restructured and reformatted from the WRBC Safe Church Policy approved on 11 November 2013. The policy objectives and statements have not been changed.

WRCC thanks the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT for permission to adapt resources from the Creating Safe Spaces program.

Policy objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- minimise the risk of abuse, ministry misconduct and the misuse of positional power
- ensure that all cases of suspected abuse and ministry misconduct are handled thoroughly
- ensure that church workers and programs are safe
- ensure that all people are respected and valued

Policy statement

The church commits to:

- recruit safe church workers
- train church workers
- supervise church workers
- respond to allegations of risk of harm (abuse) and serious ministry misconduct
- provide safe environments in our ministry programs

Scope & application

This document applies to all church workers, both paid and volunteer, associated with any ministry of the church.

Terms and definitions

The following terms and definitions apply to this document.

Term	Definition
Child	A person who is under the age of 18 years
Church worker	Paid or volunteer worker associated with any ministry of our church
Vulnerable adult	A person who is 18 years of age or older, who by reason of disability, age, illness, personal circumstances, or cultural or linguistic circumstances, has difficulty protecting themselves against significant harm or exploitation

Reference documents

The following documents refer to this Policy:

WRCC, *Safe Church Standard*

WRCC, *Safe Church Manual*

Authorisation

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West Ryde Community Church