



An Australian Baptist Response to Working With Children and Youth

Australian Baptists are committed to promoting the welfare of children participating in any of their ministries or activities by protecting their rights and also protecting them from harm. This is facilitated through a commitment to nationally agreed standards. Even though legislation differs in each state, these standards are consistent with legislation in each state.

1. Fostering a culture of Child Safety

through constant communication and reinforcement of these principles at all levels in all our churches and/or organisations.

2. Establishing Codes of Conduct for all persons working with children and/or youth which set out clear standards of behaviour and attitudes required of anybody working with children and/or youth.

3. Rigorous screening and selection processes for determining the suitability of persons to work with children and/or youth. All persons working with children and/or youth will also be given an appropriate induction and

receive ongoing training during the time of their involvement.

4. Clear and transparent processes for dealing with Concerns including how disclosures, suspicion of harm and /or allegations of potential harm are handled and reported to relevant authorities. This would also include appropriate responses for anyone seeking redress. All complaints will also be taken seriously and responded to promptly.

5. Risk Management Approaches which, identify, assess and minimise risk in the physical and online environment including the mitigation of those risks through appropriate strategies and action (e.g. Risk management plans formulated and implemented).

6. Mechanisms promoting the participation and empowerment of children and/or youth through listening and input from children and/or youth. Particular attention will also be given to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children.

7. A commitment to transparent and regular communication to all parents and other stakeholders regarding our principles and the processes adopted in ensuring the welfare of children and/or youth participating in our activities or ministries. Regular feedback will also be invited from families whose children and/or youth are involved in our ministries or activities.

8. Addressing privacy considerations by ensuring children and/or youth's personal information is treated appropriately. This includes how the information is collected, stored and used.

9. A commitment to continuous improvement that involves reviewing, monitoring and adapting policies and procedures in response to changing circumstances, legislation and the needs of those in our care.

10. Compliance with all relevant legislation and regulations related to working with children and/or youth including working with children checks or their equivalent.

RESOURCES

Further information re individual state or territory legislation and processes can be found at the following websites.

South Australia

www.childprotection.sa.gov.au

Northern Territory

www.workingwithchildren.gov.au

Victoria

www.dhs.vic.gov.au
(policies, guidelines and legislation)

Tasmania

www.justice.tas.gov.au/workingwithchildren

Queensland

www.bluecard.gov.au

Western Australia

www.workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au

New South Wales

www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/working-with-children



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Baptist Union of Victoria & Baptist Churches of Tasmania

03 9880 6100

Queensland Baptists

07 3354 5600

Baptist Churches Western Australia

08 6313 6300

Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT

02 9868 9200

Baptist Care Australia

02 6195 3176

Baptist World Aid Australia

02 9451 1199

Global Interaction

03 9819 4944



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