

## Warrnambool Uniting Church Policy re Keeping Children Safe

### **Warrnambool Uniting Church Mission Statement:**

Walking with Jesus as we walk with others in faith

### **Underlying ethos and values of the Uniting Church:**

In accordance with the ethos and values of the Uniting Church Synod of Victoria and Tasmania, Warrnambool Uniting Church (WUC) Council endorses the following ethos and values in relationship:

Ethos:

- Being inclusive
- Acting and advocating for a just society
- Working for peace and justice within the world
- Having an openness to the wisdom of people of other faiths views
- Implementing environmental sustainable practice

Values:

- Justice
- Inclusion
- Compassion
- Shared leadership
- Respect
- Integrity
- Wise stewardship
- Innovation

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### **Aim of policy:**

To ensure a safe, nurturing environment for children

To comply with the Victas Synod policy and standards of Keeping Children Safe

To c o m p l y w i t h r e l e v a n t l e g i s l a t i o n

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### **Scope of Policy:**

This policy applies to all Ministers, Lay Pastors, employees, parishioners and any volunteers of Warrnambool Uniting Church (WUC)

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### **Legislation:**

The Crimes Amendment (Grooming) Act 2014

The Crimes Amendment (Protection of Children) Act 2014

## Warrnambool Uniting Church Policy re Keeping Children Safe

The Child Youth and Families Act (2005) as amended 2007

The Child Wellbeing and Safety Act (2007)

### Policy:

All employees and volunteers must have Working With Children checks registered to Warrnambool Uniting Church, sign a code of conduct and complete Child safety training.

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### Procedure:

A Child Safety committee will be established by Church Council to oversee compliance.

### **Child Safety Committee: Operating Guidelines**

#### **1. Role of the Child Safety Committee**

- To ensure that the standards are met and adhered to, including that all volunteers of the Church have Working with Children Checks.
- Members to act as the contact person re child abuse
- To enact Synod's Guidelines re people who are unable to obtain a working with children check

#### **2. Membership**

- Two congregational members appointed by Church Council
- An Elder
- A member of the Ministry team
- At least one member to be a member of Church council

#### **3 Meeting and reporting**

- The committee will meet at least four times a year and report to Church Council subsequent to these meetings
  - Additional meetings will be called as required and the committee will initially meet monthly, until the initial work is completed
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### **Review**

The policy will be reviewed in two years

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Attachments:

Standards

January 2017