

I the Lord, have called you in righteousness, And will hold your hand; I will keep you and give you as covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, (Isa 42:6)

To: All St Mark Church servants

Subject: Child Protection Law

Dear blessed Servants;

The law in NSW requires organisations providing services to children including religious organisations to implement Child Safe Standards. Child Safe Standards support the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

Child Safe Standards are principle-based and outcome-focused to make sure organizations have enough flexibility to implement child safe practice in meaningful ways that work for their organization.

Organizations including churches are required to implement child safe practice, guided by the child safe standards. Organizations that are implementing the National Principles for Child Safe Organizations would be considered to be simultaneously implementing the child safe standards.

The Children's Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Bill 2021 developed National Principles for child safe organizations with 10 Child Safe Standards with the aim to create safer child environments within the organization.

The Child Safe Standards provide a framework for organizations to create and maintain child-safe cultures, operations and environments. The Child Safe Standards are:

1. Child safety is embedded in organizational leadership, governance and culture;
2. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously;
3. Families and communities are informed and involved;
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken in to account;
5. People working with children are suitable and supported;
6. Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse are child focused;
7. Staff is equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training;
8. Physical and online environments minimize the opportunity for abuse to occur;
9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved; and
10. Policies and procedures document how the organization is child safe.

St Mark Church is working to fulfil its obligations under the Child Protection law.

As first stage in the process the church is required to ensure all its servants hold current Working With Children Check (WWCC). It is mandatory for any servant or volunteer who provides service to the church to hold current WWCC.

This includes services provided on the church's grounds or during outings, excursions, camps, vacations, ect

The list of Servants who are required to hold current WWCC is comprehensive but not limited to (not in any order)

- Priests
- Deacons
- Sunday school
- Educational services
- Outdoor duties
- Scouts
- Bus drivers
- Maintenance
- Kitchen
- Coffee shop
- Canteen
- Orban
- Book shop
- Vacation care
- Any other person who is a servant but not listed above please contact us on the email below

If you are the coordinator of one or more of the above services would you kindly;

- Provide a list of all servants in your group with copies of current WWCC
- Any servant who does not hold current WWCC should immediately apply and provide application number. When certificate is received (up to 2-3 weeks) provide copy to the email below
- Monitor expiry dates and alert servants to apply for renewal which can be done up to 3 months before expiry
- Can only appoint new servants who have application numbers or current WWCC
- Forward updated emails for new and/or exiting servants

How do I obtain WWCC: By applying online www.service.nsw.gov.au or in person by visiting Service NSW office. The law provides free WWCC for unpaid employees and volunteers such as church servants.

Please forward inquires to Amir Ashamalla 0423 022 680

Correspondence and WWCC certificates to iservesupport@stmark.com.au