

**BUILDING SAFE COMMUNITIES OF FAITH:
ANGLICAN PARISH OF BUNGENDORE
CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

Jesus Christ said: "Love your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and love your neighbour as yourself". These principles guide us into right relationships and provide the basis for a safe and abuse-free Christian community.

Priority Outcome

We seek to build and maintain a safe community of faith.

A community of faith that is safe and free from abuse is:

- a community that fosters right relationships between all members and those with whom it comes into contact exemplified in the behaviour of Jesus Christ;
- a place where all people can feel that their personhood is respected by all in an environment of safety and security;
- a community sustained by responsible and loving Christian leadership and management practices built on a sound scriptural base; and
- a Christian environment that does not tolerate abuse of persons and handles with calmness, care and sensitivity the needs and rights of those who have been abused.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Rector, Chairperson and all Wardens of the Parish of Bungendore are responsible for ensuring that:

- all reasonable and practicable steps are taken to avoid danger of abuse to members of the community arising from their involvement in any church activity.
- all persons leading ministries, especially those relating to children and young people, are appropriately authorised and suitably qualified and trained.
- on an annual basis, they remind all members of the congregations, especially parish staff and lay ministers, of the spirit, intent and procedures of this policy and their responsibilities within it.
- A copy of this policy is posted on the Parish website and publicly on view inside each of the Parish centres.
- the Child Protection Policy is reviewed annually, the Child Protection Register return is submitted to the Registrar annually and the required interview procedures are undertaken prior to appointment of relevant individuals such as teachers and leaders.
- All relevant Parish and Diocesan documentation pertaining to Child Protection are completed, collected, processed and stored securely.

Every member of the Parish is responsible for working with and supporting the whole community of faith in the implementation of this policy.

Mandatory Reporting (with reference to children and young persons)

In NSW a 'child' is a person under 16 years of age and a 'young person' is someone 16 or older but under 18 years of age.

In NSW all licensed ministers, clergy and lay, are mandatory reporters of sexual and physical abuse of children and young persons.

Reporting sexual abuse of children or young persons

- Parishes will follow the appropriate procedures regarding the reporting of child sexual and physical abuse.

Reporting Sexual Harassment and Abuse (with reference to adults)

- Making a Complaint: Where a person feels that they have been physically or sexually harassed or abused by another member of the church they may take their complaint directly to a Diocesan Contact Officer.

Dr Joan Buchanan (Canberra Area),
Tel. no 62815360 (home)
Fax 62814063
Email regjoank@ozemail.com.au

- Alternatively a person may seek independent legal advice or go to the Police
- If a person with a sexual abuse or harassment complaint seeks the guidance of the Rector or Warden, the Rector or Warden will assist the complainant to contact the Diocesan Contact Officer who will take such action as is necessary to resolve the situation according to the Diocese's Discipline Ordinance 2001 and the Diocesan Pastoral Guidelines on Sexual Harassment or Sexual Misconduct.

Training & Administration

- All Parish officeholders who are in contact or likely to be in contact with children and young persons are required to attend child protection courses as required by Diocesan Guidelines.
- The interview process for current and new Parish officeholders, such as teachers and leaders, is undertaken by the Rector or under the direction of the Rector. The interview, training and checking processes provide appropriate screening of individuals through education and training, re-training and assessments including police checks. All stages are to be completed prior to appointment of the individual concerned.
- In all matters relating to allegations of abuse, information will only be given to those who need it for the protection and well being of the child or young person, and for the pursuit of appropriate action.
- The Rector and Parish officeholders such as Church Wardens report annually to the Diocese on the status of Child Protection in the Parish.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually in the light of risk assessment and in the light of any changes in Diocesan or State legislation.

The Rector, Chairperson and all Wardens are responsible for ensuring that the relevant policies and practices in the Parish are updated in the light of these changes.

Parish Council, Anglican Parish of Bungendore

November 2008