

Culture of Safety Unit

A unit within the Synod Secretariat,
Synod of Victoria and Tasmania

Ethical Standards Officer Rev Lauren Mosso

- Manager, Culture of Safety Unit
- Code of Ethics Training
- Supervision Standards
- Advice about breaches of the Code of Ethics
- Contact person for breaches which are of a sexual nature
- Convenor of Advisers for Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee
- Child sexual assault case management (current and historical)
- Training in UCA Regulations as required

Safe Church Educator Josh Woollett

- Safe Church Training and Culture of Safety Training for implementation of safe church policies
- Safe Church policy development
- Advice about protection of children and vulnerable adults
- Advice about implementing safe church policies

Contact us:

Rev Lauren Mosso Ethical Standards Officer

Lauren worked as a conciliator of equal opportunity and workers compensation disputes before entering into ordained ministry as a Minister of the Word.

Tel: (03) 9340 8825 (Tues-Fri)
e: lauren.mosso@victas.uca.org.au

Josh Woollett Safe Church Educator

Josh is a social worker who has worked in the areas of child protection, restorative justice with young offenders, and training.

Tel: (03) 9340 8810 (Tues-Thurs)
e: josh.woollett@victas.uca.org.au

Visit our website

[http://victas.uca.org.au/
culture-of-safety](http://victas.uca.org.au/culture-of-safety)

The Culture of Safety Unit is located at:
Centre for Theology and Ministry
29 College Crescent
Parkville VIC 3052

Creating a Safe Environment for Children and Vulnerable Adults in our Church

Culture of Safety Unit

A unit within the Synod
Secretariat

The Culture of Safety Unit offers policies, training, and advice to help you to prevent abuse.

New Safe Church Policies for Congregations and Presbyteries

Our Synod is committed to protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm and abuse.

New policies have been prepared to provide Congregations and Presbyteries with guidance about what is expected in relation to the protection of children (age 0-18) and vulnerable adults from abuse. A vulnerable adult is a person who may be considered to be susceptible to abuse or exploitation based on factors such as their health status (physical or mental), age, grief, social isolation or financial hardship. Vulnerability can be temporary or permanent.

Three new policies include:

- Creating a Safe Environment for Children and Vulnerable Adults in our Church
- Code of Conduct for the Prevention of Abuse
- Safe Leaders Guide

The full policies can be found at <http://victas.uca.org.au/culture-of-safety>

Training for Prevention of Abuse within our Synod

Safe Church Training

Josh Woollett offers two types of safe church training, the full-day ecumenical Safe Church Training workshop and the half-day Culture of Safety Training. Congregations and Ministers are encouraged to attend as a group so they can work together to implement the new policies.

Code of Ethics Training

Presbyteries are offering a new round of Code of Ethics Training, which is compulsory for Ministers to attend. Training is case study based and invites discussion of ethical ministry practice.

Church Discipline Training

Lauren Mosso offers Presbyteries training on complaint handling within church discipline processes.

Training for Supervisors

The Assembly is preparing new training for supervisors, and we plan to offer refresher courses for supervisors. Regular professional supervision is required for all Ministers for best ministry practice.

Attending the Safe Church Training is your ticket to implementing the new policies
Contact Josh Woollett for training dates and advice on implementation.

Working with Ecumenical and Synod Colleagues

The issue of abuse is not specific to one denomination.

Our Synod is a member of the National Council of Churches in Australia's Safe Church Training Agreement. The full-day Safe Church Training Workshops are part of this agreement. Our ecumenical colleagues in the Victorian Professional Standards Network share policies and information. For example, we have received the benefit of their earlier policy work on managing the risk posed by known sex offenders in congregations.

The Culture of Safety Unit works in an inter-disciplinary way. Our steering group includes colleagues from:

- The Bethel Pastoral Centre
- Congregational Ministry
- Cross-Cultural Mission & Ministry
- Centre for Theology & Ministry
- Human Resources
- Occupational Health & Safety
- Synod Sexual Misconduct Complaints Committee

Josh and Lauren are available to discuss matters by telephone. Please see overleaf for details.