



Uniting Church in Australia  
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

10 September 2020

Culture of Safety - Secretariat  
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**To: All Church Council Secretaries, Safe Church  
Contacts, Ministers in Placements, Presbytery Secretaries and Presbytery  
Ministers**

**RE: Safe Church Training**

Dear Friends,

It is now nearly three years since Safe Church Training for all appointed leaders was rolled out across the Synod of Victoria and Tasmania. We are grateful to everyone who has completed this training and helped build a culture where we all contribute to ensuring a safe church for children and young people. All appointed leaders are expected to refresh their training every three years, so those who completed the training in 2017 would be due to do refresher training in the second half of this year.

We are excited to be working with the Assembly's National Safe Church Unit and the other synods to develop a national child safe training curriculum for the Uniting Church. We anticipate the new training will be ready in the first half of 2021. This new material will enable leaders to complete the training using online or face to face training sessions and modules. Every appointed leader will be required to complete this new training, either as the initial training for new leaders or as refresher training for those who have completed Safe Church Training previously.

In light of the new material becoming available next year, if you or any of your appointed leaders were due for refresher training this year, you do not have to do this in 2020 as initially indicated. Rather, complete the new national child safe training in 2021. We will let you know as soon as the new materials are available.

If you have new appointed leaders who start before the new national training is available, they must have a Working With Children Check/Working With Vulnerable People Registration and have had a conversation with an appropriate person about the Church's expectations of being a safe place and their understanding of the safety of children in the role they are taking on. Make sure they are aware of and agree to the Code of Conduct and Statement of Commitment that your church council has adopted.

You can continue to offer the current child safe training to new and existing leaders. It can be offered in an online format using technology like Zoom and the existing power point slides and work books. Check with your presbytery or neighbouring congregations to see if they have any plans to offer the training.

Thank you for all you do to ensure that we are a safe place for children and young people.

**Rev Sue Clarkson**  
Ethical Standards Manager  
Culture of Safety - Secretariat



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