



## Safe Ministry Policy

Approved by: Diocesan Council

9 April 2015

### **Introduction:**

As the Church in this Diocese we affirm that:  
all people have the right to be emotionally and physically safe;  
be respected; and  
have their views and opinions valued at all times.

The State of Western Australia legislates for people's safety.

God calls his body, the church, to minister to vulnerable people. God identified classes of people who were to be protected and given special care because of their powerlessness.  
(Ex 22:21 – 22, Deut 10:17 – 19, Jer 22:2 – 4, James 1:27).

This Policy has been developed to assist us to live out our Biblical mandate and comply with State Legislation.

### **This Policy aims to:**

1. Minimise the risk of abuse, misconduct and the misuse of positional power;
2. Ensure that all cases of suspected abuse and misconduct are managed appropriately, thoroughly and in a timely manner;
3. Ensure that all leaders and programs are safe;
4. Ensure that all people are respected and valued.

### **We Commit to:**

#### **Safe recruitment of leaders**

1. All prospective leaders will be screened in accordance with the requirements of Policy 45, Safe Ministry Check (Clergy – Form 11), Volunteer Check (Form 1), before they are appointed

#### **Adequate and continued training and supervision of leaders**

1. It is a condition of Licensing that all Clergy will attend an Introduction to Churchsafe within their first year of ministry and attend a refresher session every three years.
2. It is a requirement that all Leaders will attend an Introduction to Churchsafe within their first year of ministry and attend a Refresher session every three years.
3. All Leaders are required to attend additional ministry specific training and supervision as required.

#### **Responding to allegations of abuse and misconduct**

1. All Leaders will report disclosures of suspicions of Child Abuse as outlined in the Diocesan Child Protection Policy 40.1
2. Where a Leader is subject to allegations of misconduct, support will be provided to the alleged victim and perpetrator and appropriate assistance will be sought to ensure a just a fair resolution in accordance with Policy 40.1



**Safe environments in diocesan ministry programs**

1. The Diocese is committed to the good news of Jesus and will lead in spiritually non-abusive ways.
2. Participants will be afforded a voice in the programs and activities in which they participate. Their ideas will be valued and encouraged.
3. All Leaders have the responsibility to make certain that all appropriate forms and checklists are completed to establish and maintain safe environments in our Worshipping Communities and a responsibility to report any concerns or identified risk to the appropriate person in the Diocese.