



## Statement of commitment

The Uniting Church in Australia is committed to the safety and well-being of all people, including those who use our services.

We believe that every person is precious to God, and in following Jesus' example we aim to provide safe ministry with children and their families.

We will provide safe places where people of all ages, gender, ability and economic situations are cared for, nurtured and sustained. We will treat all people with respect; understanding and we will address their concerns at all times.

The conduct of all the people in our children's ministry team shall be free from abuse including neglect, emotional, psychological and spiritual abuse, grooming behaviour and sexual abuse.

All paid employees, leaders, team members and volunteers are personally committed to upholding the stated physical, emotional, behavioural and spiritual boundaries that support the maintenance of safe ministry environments.

All members of our congregation are empowered by the Safe Ministry with Children policy to interrupt violations of these boundaries, in order to maintain the safety of our ministry with children.

## Range of acceptable behaviours

All paid employees, leaders, team members and volunteers will:

### Physical boundaries

Be mindful of the imbalance of power that exists in adult-child relationships, and build appropriate, transparent and accountable relationships with children and their families

Use only appropriate physical contact i.e. responsive to the child's needs, initiated by the child, in full view and non-sexual

Refrain from the use of physical restraint unless in circumstances where there is a clear risk of danger or physical harm

Ensure a minimum of two leaders is present for all activities with children (including transportation).

### Emotional boundaries

Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person, regardless of the person's abilities, gender, religion or cultural background, without favouritism or prejudice

Behave in a way that is a positive example, ensuring that their attitude and language affirms dignity and self-worth

Avoid activities that may cause embarrassment, show disrespect or cause isolation.

### Behavioural boundaries

Be accountable to leaders within the church, and work as part of a team

Communicate with respect, ensuring others are not subject to inappropriate images/material (including pornographic material) or invasive use of any type of technology; and direct all correspondence (especially electronic or social media) to parents rather than directly with the child or children

## You are invited to share your feedback and/or concerns with:

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| Church council chairperson:             | phone:  |
| Minister:                               | phone:  |
| Presbytery chairperson:                 | phone: (chair@moretonriverspresbytery.org.au) |
| <b>Synod Support Services:</b>          |   |
| Complaints and allegations              | phone: 1800 586 591                           |
| Administrator, Safe Ministry (Children) | phone: 07 3377 9833                           |