

Safe as Churches? Conference

The Safe as Churches? Conferences are held biannually to bring together Church and Congregation leaders, Safe Ministry Units, Professional Standards Directors, and Safe Church Training Workshop presenters.

It is a networking and professional development opportunity for responding to church related abuse and misconduct issues and developing protection strategies for children and vulnerable adults in churches.

Safe as Churches? 7
Building Resilience
8 - 10 September 2015

Safe as Churches? 8
28 - 30 March 2017

Safe Church Network

The Safe Church Network is a regular meeting of denominational professional standards representatives gathering under the auspices of the National Council of Churches in Australia for the purpose of:

- Facilitating cooperation among Australian churches on safe ministry issues.
- Providing safe ministry advice and responding to requests from the NCCA Executive.
- Providing regular professional development and networking opportunities.
- Acting as a reference group for NCCA's Safe Church Training Agreement.

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National Council of
Churches in Australia
Safe Church Program



An initiative of the National Council of Churches in Australia
www.safechurches.org.au

Safe Church Program

The Safe Church Program commits to “Holistic Safe Church Ministry”.

Holistic Safe Church Ministry finds the balance in fulfilling the duty of care responsibilities by pastoral, legal, denominational and ethical means.

- * Providing support for implementing policies and procedures surrounding the protection of children and vulnerable people in the church and ministry contexts.
- * Highlighting the support needed for people in positions of leadership in the areas of:
 - responding to any form of abuse and/or risk of harm to children and vulnerable people.
 - monitoring of practices, safe recruitment of leaders, safe supervision of leaders, codes of conduct, incident reports.
 - responding to allegations of ministry misconduct and/or abuse.
- * Enabling appropriate preparations to be in place for conducting church programs in a physically, sexually, financially, emotionally and spiritually safe manner.

Safe Church Training Agreement

The **Safe Church Training Agreement (SCTA)** focuses on assisting local church leaders to operate within Holistic Safe Church Ministry.

The SCTA is an initiative of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) with both NCCA and non-NCCA churches participating in the agreement. It helps facilitate high quality, sustainable, accessible Safe Church workshops for local leaders (both paid and volunteer).

Safe Church workshops are interactive, awareness raising workshops covering: Christian foundations of safe ministry, duty of care, vulnerable people and child protection (abuse prevention), due diligence in relation to recruitment and supervision of all church leaders and the management of program risks.

The SCTA serves its church member organisations by:

- providing the National SCTA Standards for Safe Church Programs and Training Presenters
- ongoing review and periodic updates as necessary that inform Members of changes to the National SCTA Standards
- providing the ‘SCTA Manual’ (**To be available late 2015**)
- national coordination of the co-endorsement process for Safe Church workshop presenters
- national coordination of Training Partners’ Safe Church workshops via the online SCTA Calendar
- maintaining a National Register of attendees at SCTA co-endorsed workshops
- maintaining a National Register of SCTA Co-endorsed Trainers
- managing the SCTA website: www.safechurches.org.au with current information, workshop dates, resources and legislative changes
- communicating relevant State, Territory and Federal legislative and compliance changes to SCTA Members
- providing a voice in the wider community regarding Vulnerable Adult and Child safety, protection and care matters



An initiative of the National Council of Churches in Australia
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“Confronting the reality of sexual abuse by clergy and church workers has been, and continues to be, a painful and difficult journey for the Australian Church.”

*Safe as Churches? 1 Consultation
(4-6 March 2004)*