



National Council of
Churches in Australia
Safe Church Program

Safe Church Program

MEMBERSHIP



Safe Church Program – Membership

Strategic Principles

NCCA coordinates the Safe Church Program as an ecumenical endeavor that accommodates the diversity of traditions and ecclesiology of Australia's churches.

Since the Final Report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (December 2017), there are National Principles for Child Safe Organisations adopted by all Australian governments (February 2019) and moves towards an accompanying national compliance and regulatory framework that religious institutions, including churches, are required to adhere to.

The 2020 NCCA Safe Church Child Safety Framework, that included consultation with members and children in our churches, provides best practice and comprehensive guidance and indicators for member churches, church entities and parachurch organisations to continue to improve and assess their adherence to national principles of child safety within their ministry and faith community settings.

The implementation role of NCCA Safe Church Program, in the spirit of ecumenism, will focus on Onboarding and Capacity-Building with those churches, church entities and parachurch organisations that require assistance and support to make progress against the national principles.

Key Values

- Protection of children, youth and vulnerable adults in the community is an imperative of our shared Christian faith.
- The protection of the rights of and flourishing of all people (John 10:10) is the shared commitment in our promotion of safe church and ministry environments.
- Inter-church training expresses our “serving together in ministry” that is safe for all people while recognizing and respecting the difference between our Christian traditions.
- Training and professional development focuses on leaders having a Christ-like attitude and behaviour in Christian ministry at all times and with all people.
- The NCCA Child Safety Framework provides guidance for the implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations in church and ministry settings and allows for the differences in State and Territory legislation and compliance.

Key Objectives

RESPONSIBILITY (Matthew 25:45)

To increase the awareness of all the faithful involved in Australian churches and Christian ministries of our shared responsibility in Safe Church ministry with children, youth and vulnerable adults.

BEST PRACTICE (Matthew 5:3-12)

To provide a Child Safety Framework that will guide Australian churches and Christian ministries in applying the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the recommendations of the Royal Commission, National Principles for Child Safe Organisations in their training of leaders and implementation of awareness raising workshops on the Christian foundations for safe ministry, risk management and abuse prevention of children, youth and vulnerable adults.

ACCESSIBILITY (Matthew 19:13-15)

To resource, keep up-to-date and coordinate the ecumenical training of greater numbers of church and ministry leaders so as to minimise the risk of the potential for, and intensity of, failures in Christian discipleship, duty of care and incidents of physical, sexual, emotional, financial and religious or spiritual abuse of children, youth and vulnerable adults.

SUSTAINABILITY (John 10:9-11)

To resource, keep up-to-date and coordinate the ongoing ecumenical tasks of recruitment and supervision of all church leaders and educating emerging leaders in safe church ministry including in youth groups, seminaries and theological colleges.



FY20-21 Safe Church Program Membership

Financial Year Membership of the NCCA Safe Church Program is based on four categories.

| | FY20-21 | FY19-20 |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| One ministry site (Stand-alone Church, eg independent Baptist church) | \$350 | \$300 |
| 100 or fewer active ministry sites | \$800 | \$750 |
| 101 to 200 active ministry sites | \$1,700 | \$1,650 |
| 200+ active ministry sites | \$2,750 | \$2,750 |

*Active Ministry Sites: where ministry to children and vulnerable adults occurs, ie parishes or local congregations, youth outreach/ministry sites.

**Note that Members may also be (1) Training Partners – offering NCCA awareness workshop curricula and content for ecumenical participation either face-to-face or by ZOOM; or (2) Training Providers – offering awareness workshops for ecumenical participation in training that has been assessed as being equal to the NCCA curricula and content. More information on Training Partners and Training Providers can be found [here](#).

Member Benefits

Members can purchase the NCCA Child Safety Framework suite of resources through the webstore at a discounted rate of \$250.

New Members

In addition to the annual membership contribution above, for New Members there will be a one-off payment of \$600 for Onboarding with NCCA Safe Church Program for the following assistance:

- NCCA Safe Church Program staff will support new members to identify gaps in the church, church entity, faith community, parachurch organisation’s safeguarding systems (gaps analysis).
- NCCA Safe Church Program staff will provide a resource pack to begin the safeguarding journey.
- NCCA staff will assist church leaders and senior ministry leaders to access safe church awareness ecumenical workshops run by training provider members (payment per participant for workshops will be requested by training providers, workshop workbook is downloaded from NCCA webstore for a nominal fee).



- Designated leaders who wish to become an endorsed presenter of the NCCA's Safe Church Awareness Workshops will be able to access Train the Trainer. NCCA will work to assign an ecumenical training mentor. For more information on the endorsement process click [here](#).
- Train the Trainer workshops are an additional cost to program members.
- NCCA staff will provide ongoing support and consultancy.
- NCCA staff will provide support in engaging with State and Territory regulators.

Long Term Members

– that have been NCCA Safe Church Program members for over two years

In addition to the discounted rate on access to the NCCA Child Safety Framework suite of resources, they can input into planning NCCA professional development activities on safeguarding, eg webinars, seminars, conferences with Australia's leading experts. As long-term members they have discounted access to NCCA professional development events.

Membership of the NCCA Safe Church Program will be visible on the NCCA website and promoted nationally.

Other costs payable by Members to NCCA and Training Providers

Workbook required for participant in Awareness Workshop or Presenter Training Workshop is downloadable from NCCA webstore for \$4.00 (inclusive of GST)

Face-to-face training providers of Awareness Workshops charge their own rates. In Victoria for example, participants joining an ecumenical Awareness Workshop are charged per participant to the church providing the workshop and \$4 for a workbook (that can also be downloaded from NCCA webstore).

Non-member and For-Profit Church Training Providers

Non-member and for-profit church training providers that wish to access the NCCA Safe Church Program Child Safety Framework suite of resources are able to purchase the Framework from the NCCA webstore for \$500.

For all NCCA Safe Church Program membership enquiries, please email:

scpadmin@ncca.org.au

