

WESTGATE BAPTIST COMMUNITY STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

A SAFE CHURCH FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS REPORTABLE CONDUCT (2020)

Westgate Baptist Community is committed to ensuring the safety and well being of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, providing a safe physical, spiritual and emotional environment, safe from all forms of abuse.

1. All employees and volunteers involved with children in a church related activity are required to have a *Working with Children Check*.

2. Procedure for reporting sexual abuse:

i) Report to the Police. The law states that “Any adult who forms a *reasonable belief* that a sexual offence has been committed by an adult against a child under 18 has an obligation to report that information to the police. Failure to do so is a criminal offence.” A “reasonable belief” exists when:

- a child states that they have been sexually abused
- a child states that they know someone who has been sexually abused
- someone who knows a child states that the child has been sexually abused

ii) Report to Westgate’s “Safe Church Concerns Person” (the Pastor) who will report to the BUV *or* Report directly to the BUV “Professional Standards Worker”. Complete the *Safe Church Concern Form* in the office.

3. Photos and videos of children under 18 are not to be taken without the consent of parents.

These requirements are based on The *Safe Church Manual* of the Baptist Union of Victoria (2016), the legislation of the Victorian Government’s *Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP)* (2016) and the *CCYP Reportable Conduct Scheme: Information Sheet (FAQ) 2017*.

The Deacons
November, 2020

This notice is to be kept on public display