

The Anglican Diocese of Sydney requires that all leaders who work with children, youth or other vulnerable people adhere to the Safe Ministry Pledge. The Anglican Diocese of Sydney wants its ministries to be characterised by grace and forgiveness, not rules and regulations; but the Bible is concerned that leaders have a particularly high standard in their personal life. Unfortunately, not all Christian workers have protected vulnerable people in the past.

The Safe Ministry Pledge is based on *Faithfulness in Service 2023* (the national code for clergy and church workers in Anglican churches) and the Code of Conduct for Children's and Youth Ministry found in the Safe Ministry Blueprint documents (<https://safeministry.org.au/blueprints/>)

It is expected that leaders in Sydney Anglican churches have read and will comply with the Safe Ministry Blueprint best suited to their role.

The National Code of Conduct is intended to identify the personal behaviour and practices of pastoral ministry that will ensure, as far as possible, that our children, youth and other vulnerable people are appropriately protected and cared for. The National Code of Conduct is not exhaustive and does not foresee every set of circumstances that may arise across the variety of church events and activities.

By agreeing to abide by the behaviour and practices outlined in the Safe Ministry Pledge, you help to make our churches safer places for everyone.

By checking each box, you acknowledge that you understand and agree to abide by the Safe Ministry Pledge as it applies to the children, youth and other vulnerable people involved in your church and its programs. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the Safe Ministry Team (the ODSM) at 9265 1604 or email admin@safeministry.org.au

In acknowledgement of the above, I pledge to;

- Never abuse people especially children, youth, or other vulnerable people nor cultivate relationships in order to initiate or hide abuse.
- Report to the appropriate authorities any behaviour that could be considered abusive. This includes speaking to my head ministry leader about behaviour by another leader.
- Never be alone with a child or young person in my ministry role where other adult leaders are not present.
- Never have children or young people to my home, or visit children or young people in circumstances where no other adult is present, except with the permission of their parent or guardian.
- Never touch children, youth, or other vulnerable people in a manner which is inappropriate given their age, gender, cultural background, context or personal circumstances. Where I am unsure about what is appropriate I will speak to my head ministry leader first.
- Never physically discipline anyone, especially a child, youth or other vulnerable person in the course of my ministry.
- Never make alcohol, cigarettes or illicit drugs available to children or youth.

- Never develop special relationships with particular children, youth or other vulnerable people that could be seen as involving favouritism or any form of special treatment.
- Never engage in any contact with children, youth, or other vulnerable people that is secretive (whether physical or through electronic media or in any other way).
- Never use electronic communication with children and young people in a manner inconsistent with the guidelines for appropriate use as set out in the Blueprint document when communicating with people under my leadership.
- Never become romantically involved with any participant in the youth or children's ministry where I am a leader.
- Never take unauthorised photos, movies or recordings of anyone, especially a child or young person on church property or at church activities without church authorisation and the consent of their parents or guardians.
- Never view, possess, produce or distribute restricted material containing sexual acts or nudity without a legitimate purpose; and never view, possess, produce or distribute any form of child pornography or child exploitation material.

I confirm that:

- Where required, I shall complete Safe Ministry training every 3 years.
- Where required, I shall hold a Working with Children Check clearance.
- Where required, I commit to read and regularly review the Safe Ministry Blueprint document best suited to my role (where your role is not identified by the Safe Ministry Blueprint documents, you should read the Safe Ministry Blueprint for Parents and Church members) <https://safeministry.org.au/blueprints/>
- If I fail to abide by the Safe Ministry Pledge, I shall inform my senior minister or the Safe Ministry Team (the ODSM) at the earliest possible opportunity.
- I understand that any breach of the Safe Ministry Pledge may lead to my being suspended or terminated from holding any role in relation to working with children, youth or other vulnerable persons in church ministries.

Name: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____