



RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Religious communities play their part to protect and care for children and young people in their community by supporting families and promoting children and young people's health and wellbeing.



Be a positive role model. Children and young people learn from the people that they spend time with, so make your influence positive.

Facilitate a youth friendly environment by creating opportunities for children and young people to engage in and be heard. This could include providing a youth space, holding a community event to showcase children's achievements, or developing a youth action network.

Collaborate with other organisations and be informed on the indicators and risks of child abuse and neglect as well as preventative measures. This will increase your awareness of how to support families in your community and prevent harm.

Develop means for family networking and support groups through communication channels such as notice boards, newsletters, online and social media or offering practical support. Reach out to families who are isolated. Be available and approachable.

Consider becoming a Child Safe Organisation and encourage all staff and volunteers to undertake training to implement child safe practices across the organisation. This training could also be accessed by Board members and senior staff. Develop child related policies and procedures. Child Protection Policies should promote wellbeing and early intervention practices and be consistent with state/territory mandatory reporting legislation.

A code of conduct for working with children and young people is a practical tool for promoting clear, consistent roles and behaviour. Ensure that all staff and volunteers engaged in child related work hold a valid Working With Children Check. When implemented and supported consistently, these policies work to protect children, workers and the organisation.

Openly encourage reviews of pastoral care systems to ensure they are meeting the needs of staff and students.

Consider the impact on children / young people when making service delivery decisions.

Be open to making connections with any child, young person or community member who needs your support regardless of cultural background or religious beliefs, to further perpetuate an environment of acceptance and tolerance.

Think about safe and respectful ways to be an active bystander if you see an adult being inappropriate towards a child or young person.

Support Schools in their promotion of children and young people's safety and wellbeing.