

Wagga Wagga Evangelical Church Safe Church Policy



Wagga Wagga Evangelical Church (WVEC) is committed to the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare and safety of all people, particularly within our own community. We affirm that all people have the right to be emotionally and physically safe and respected, and have their views and opinions valued at all times.

We live in a country that legislates for people's safety, particularly in the area of child protection. Our policy has been developed to help us provide a welcoming and safe environment for all people to grow in their understanding and love of God as well as fulfilling our responsibilities under Australian legislation.

The following policy aims to minimise the risk of anything detracting from our mission of 'Building Christ's church by proclaiming God's word'.

Our policy has the following goals:

- To minimise the risk of abuse, ministry misconduct and the misuse of positional power within the church.
- To ensure that all cases of suspected abuse and ministry misconduct are handled appropriately.
- To ensure that leaders and programs are safe.
- To ensure that all people are respected and valued.

SAFE LEADERS

We commit to:

a) safe recruitment of leaders.

We will screen all prospective Ministry Coordinators, Team Leaders and Team Members in our ministries, before they are appointed.

For those working with children we will recruit using the relevant NSW Working with Children Check. A minimum church attendance policy is applicable for all prospective volunteer leaders.

b) adequate training of leaders.

We require that all leaders attend a Safe Ministry Training workshop within their first year of ministry and attend a refresher workshop every 3 years.

We require all leaders to attend additional ministry-specific training as required by our church leadership.

c) continued supervision of leaders.

We commit to ongoing leadership training, supervision and support for leaders.

All leaders will agree to operate within the Safe Church Policy and to follow the Wagga Wagga Evangelical Church Code of Conduct.

d) responding to allegations of risk of harm (abuse) and serious ministry misconduct.

All leaders will report to the relevant government authority disclosures or suspicions of child abuse, according to our procedures.

Where a leader has an allegation of ministry misconduct made against them we will provide support to alleged victims and perpetrators and seek appropriate help for a just and fair resolution.

SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

We commit to:

a) safe emotional and spiritual environments in our programs.

We will minister to all participants as servants of Christ, sharing and demonstrating the good news of Jesus and leading in spiritually non-abusive ways.

We will afford participants, including children, the opportunity to provide input in the programs and the activities in which they participate by; fostering and valuing their ideas, and encouraging participation in all areas of the life of the church, as far as is sensible and practical.

We will obtain appropriate information relating to the program participants, including the health and family situation of children, to ensure that we are able to responsibly provide for their spiritual and emotional needs, while in our programs.

b) safe physical environments.

Leaders will exercise a duty of care through the use of forms, checklists and templates for the establishment and maintenance of safe environments in our church.

A Safety Person/Team will be appointed to establish and maintain a safe physical environment: fire safety, building safety, first aid, food safety practices, safe transport, critical incident and emergency procedures, in compliance with the Work, Health and Safety Act 2011.

Team Leaders are to complete a written ministry approval process annually.