

## WAGGA WAGGA EVANGELICAL CHURCH

PO Box 817  
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650  
admin@wwec.org.au  
ABN 16 626 431 746



W A G G A W A G G A  
EVANGELICAL CHURCH

# WWEC POLICY - SAFE CHURCH

## Background

Wagga Wagga Evangelical Church (WWEC) is committed to the physical, emotional and spiritual welfare and safety of all people, particularly within our own community. This policy outlines the underlying principles that direct our approach to providing a welcoming and safe environment for all people to grow in their understanding and love of God.

The WWEC Administration Committee take the responsibility for ensuring these principles are reviewed every three (3) years and embedded in our organisations culture at all levels.

### 1. Commitment to 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. This includes an interview with all candidates and referee checks. A minimum church attendance policy is applicable for all prospective volunteer leaders. Those working with children/youth require a verified NSW Working with Children Check. WWEC's screening processes are outlined in *WWEC Procedure - Safe Ministry roles, responsibilities & screening*.

#### b) adequate training of leaders.

We require that all children/youth church team members complete online safe ministry training courses ([www.safeministrycheck.com.au](http://www.safeministrycheck.com.au)). This requires an online refresher training update every two (2) years. We provide ministry-specific training for our church leaders as required.

#### 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 underlying procedures.

### 2. Commitment to SAFE PROGRAMS

We will minister to all participants as servants of Christ, sharing and demonstrating the good news of Jesus in a welcoming, respectful and safe manner. We are committed to the Biblical call to care for the vulnerable by actively preventing harm and abuse, and by seeking to provide safe programs.<sup>1</sup>

We are committed to ensuring that vulnerable people (including children, families, the disabled and elderly) are informed and involved in decisions that considerably affect them. We recognise the diverse needs of vulnerable people should be taken into account and that their concerns be taken seriously.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Matthew 18:1-6; Mark 10:13-16

<sup>2</sup> As per Points 2, 3 & 4 of the National Statement of Principles for Child Safe Organisations

### **3. Commitment to SAFE ENVIRONMENTS**

We are committed to ensuring that our programs and events are safe and appropriate for those attending. Careful consideration must be given to the activities chosen, the venue, safe ratios of supervision, appropriate toileting practices, a safe online environment, transportation, work health and safety, parental or guardian permission and confidentiality of records kept.

A WWEC member is appointed in the role of WWEC *WHS Officer* to establish and maintain a safe physical environment. All relevant leaders at WWEC will follow the safety procedures as set out in *WWEC Procedure - Work, Health & Safety*. This procedure aims to minimise physical and psychosocial work-related safety risks.

WWEC staff and volunteers are to comply the *WWEC Guideline - Social Media* to ensure a safe online environment.

### **4. Commitment to SAFE CULTURE**

We are committed to embedding a culture of safe ministry and care into all levels of WWEC's leadership and culture. WWEC promotes a culture of healthy relationships, of mutual responsibility and respect in marriages, families and congregations. WWEC refuses to condone any form of abuse, inclusive of domestic violence.

We are committed to creating a culture where people feel safe to speak out about inappropriate behaviour. All incidents or concerns raised by WWEC members will be managed by WWEC *Safe Ministry Contacts*, following the *WWEC Procedure - Safe Ministry Management*. Throughout this process WWEC is committed to protecting the confidentiality, dignity, health and well-being of all individuals involved.