

Family Summary: Keeping Children & Vulnerable People Safe

Grace Communion International – Australia

Our Commitment to You

We are committed to creating safe, welcoming, and respectful environments for all children and vulnerable people. Everyone is valued and deserves to feel safe, heard, and included.

- Prevent harm before it happens
- Listen to children and families
- Respond quickly and carefully to concerns
- Meet national child safety standards and legal requirements

Your Rights

Children, young people, and vulnerable persons have the right to:

- Feel safe and be treated with dignity and respect
- Be listened to and taken seriously
- Say no to anything that makes them uncomfortable
- Be included regardless of ability, background, or circumstances
- Have a trusted adult they can talk to
- Be protected from harm, abuse, or neglect

Families have the right to:

- Know how we keep children safe
- Receive clear information about programs and supervision
- Access safe and simple ways to raise concerns
- Be informed if something serious happens
- Expect concerns will be taken seriously and acted on

What We Expect From Our Leaders

- Be screened and trained before working with children
- Follow a strict Code of Conduct
- Work in teams and avoid one-on-one isolation
- Use safe communication methods (no private messaging)
- Report any concerns immediately

How We Keep Children Safe

In programs and events:

- At least two adults present
- Safe supervision ratios
- Sign-in and sign-out processes
- First aid and risk assessments
- Clear safety rules and expectations

Online:

- Approved church platforms
- No private messaging with children
- Parents included in communications
- Moderated online spaces

Facilities and activities:

- Separate areas for children and adults
- Supervised activities
- Consent required for photos and media

Speaking Up: How to Raise a Concern

You can tell:

- A trusted leader or volunteer
- The Child & Vulnerable Persons Safety Officer (CVPSO)
- Your Pastor or ministry leader

You can also contact external services such as Police or Child Protection at any time.

What to Report

- Anything that makes you feel unsafe
- Inappropriate behaviour
- Bullying or exclusion
- Concerns about a leader or volunteer
- Anything that just does not feel right

If there is immediate danger, call 000.

What Happens Next

- We make sure everyone is safe first
- We listen and take concerns seriously
- We document what has happened

- We report to authorities where required by law
- We provide support and pastoral care
- We take action to improve safety and prevent harm

Our Promise to Families

- Take every concern seriously
- Act quickly and responsibly
- Protect privacy and confidentiality
- Support those affected
- Continuously improve

Helping Us Keep Everyone Safe

- Provide up-to-date contact and medical information
- Follow sign-in and sign-out processes
- Talk with your child about safety and speaking up
- Raise concerns early

Where to Find More Information

- Speak to your local Pastor or Child and Vulnerable Persons Safety Officer
- Visit the [GCI website](#)
- View the [full Child & Vulnerable Persons Safety Policy](#) and [Child and Vulnerable Persons Safety - Code of Conduct](#)

Final Note

Creating a safe environment is everyone's responsibility. We are committed to working with families to ensure every child and vulnerable person is safe, valued, and able to thrive.