**LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations**

**Congregations Without Children –** **Child Safety Assurance**

The LCA Child Safety Standards for Congregations have been developed to help our congregations keep children safe and help the church meet its important legal, regulatory and synodical obligations.

Implementation of the standards is an LCA policy requirement for all Australian congregations who have children and young people involved in regular congregational activities associated with worship, prayer and children’s ministry.

However, in 2022 and 2023 only, congregations who do ***not*** have children in regular attendance are ***not*** required to complete the full assessment and planning processes. Instead, these congregations are asked to provide the following assurances:

The *Insert name of congregation/parish here*  of the *Insert district here*  **District** does not have children or young people participating in regular worship, prayer or children’s ministry.

We understand that children are a special gift from God, and we acknowledge that they have special vulnerabilities. We also know that children and young people need the guidance of our Lord and ourselves to keep them safe.

With this in mind, we are committed to providing a safe church for all God’s children.

As such, we will:

1. Remain cognisant of the LCA policy and procedural requirements relating to child safety
2. Promote child-safe messages and behaviours amongst our congregational community even when children are not present
3. Display the LCA Statement of Commitment to Child Safety prominently in our church spaces.

Should children or young people attend our congregation for worship, even if only for a brief period, we will:

1. Find ways to be welcoming, respectful and inclusive to children and young people
2. Do our very best to maximise their safety and wellbeing at all times
3. Prioritise their safety and remain vigilant regarding possible risks to their emotional, spiritual, physical and sexual safety

Similarly, should our circumstances change such that children and young people commence regular participation via worship, prayer or children’s ministry, we commit as a congregation to fully implement the LCA’s Child Safety Standards for Congregations.

Chairperson: *Name*  Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: *Name*  Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

District: *Name*

Date: *dd/mm/yyyy*

Please forward a copy of this document to your Professional Standards Officer and retain a copy for your records.

Forwarded to the District Professional Standards Officer on *Date: dd/mm/yyyy*