| Child Safety Standards | | Comply?  ü = Yes  X = No  ? = Maybe | How does your church meet the standard? | What needs to be done to better meet the standard? | Action by Whom and Date for Completion |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CSS1 | Church establishes a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued. |  |  |  |  |
| 1.1 | A child’s ability to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights is encouraged and actively supported. |  |  |  |  |
| 1.2 | Strategies are embedded within the church which equip all members to acknowledge and appreciate the strengths of Aboriginal culture and understand its importance to the wellbeing and safety of Aboriginal children and young people. |  |  |  |  |
| 1.3 | Measures are adopted by the church to ensure racism within the church is identified, confronted and not tolerated. Any instances of racism are addressed with appropriate consequences. |  |  |  |  |
| 1.4 | The church actively supports and facilitates participation and inclusion within it by Aboriginal children, young people and their families. |  |  |  |  |
| 1.5 | All of the church’s policies, procedures, systems and processes together create a culturally safe and inclusive environment and meet the needs of Aboriginal children, young people and their families. |  |  |  |  |
| CSS 2 | Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in church leadership, governance and culture. |  |  |  |  |
| 2.1 | The church makes a public commitment to child safety. |  | *Example- our statement is listed on our public website, weekly bulletin, on Position Descriptions, etc* | *Example - We should talk about this with the congregation from the pulpit and maybe a sermon series* | *Example- Pastor JS to preach 4 week sermon series by end of 2022* |
| 2.2 | A child safe culture is championed and modelled at all levels of the church from the top down and bottom up. |  | *Example- every ministry communicates who is the Safe Church contact person and their role, including to children, parents/carers, community members* |  | *Example- Deacon MM to ensure Safe church team is introduced in to every ministry and congregation in February 2023 (and annual)* |
| 2.3 | Governance arrangements facilitate implementation of the child safety and wellbeing policy at all levels. |  | *Example- Child safety is included as a discussion point on every monthly deacons meeting* | *Example- Pastoral leaders should have external supervision;*  *all senior leadership including deacons to undertake WWCC and full screening process* | *Example- Secretary (head of entity) to attend CCYP information session regarding Reportable Conduct Scheme by August 2022.* |
| 2.4 | Code of Conduct provides guidelines for staff and volunteers on expected behavioural standards and responsibilities. |  | *Example- note the document name and paragraph* | *Example- Code of conduct includes expectations, however should be updated to include social media/Zoom/electronic communication* |  |
| 2.5 | Risk management strategies focus on preventing, identifying and mitigating risks to children and young people. |  | *Example- we ensure every ministry completes risk assessment annually, but don’t ensure child wellbeing is specifically addressed* | *Example - Ensure risk assessments consider all types of harm to children (various types of abuse, discrimination, bullying, racism, etc)* | *Example- Office manager to edit existing Risk assessment template; upload to data management system and email all ministyr leaders to advise,. By August 2022* |
| 2.6 | Staff and volunteers understand their obligations on information sharing and record keeping. |  | *Example- Not sure if we do this at all* | *Example- Ensure all staff and volunteers collect relevant information only, and know how to store securely.* | *Example- Deacon HM to review BUV website and CSS training materials for further information* |
| CSS 3 | Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously. |  |  |  |  |
| 3.1 | Children and young people are informed about all of their rights, including to safety, information and participation. |  |  |  |  |
| 3.2 | The importance of friendships is recognised and support from peers is encouraged, to help children and young people feel safe and be less isolated. |  |  |  |  |
| 3.3 | Where relevant to the setting or context, children and young people are offered access to sexual abuse prevention programs and to relevant related information in an age appropriate way. |  |  |  |  |
| 3.4 | Staff and volunteers are attuned to signs of harm and facilitate child-friendly ways for children and young people to express their views, participate in decision-making and raise their concerns. |  |  |  |  |
| 3.5 | Church has strategies in place to develop a culture that facilitates participation and is responsive to the input of children and young people. |  |  |  |  |
| 3.6 | Church provides opportunities for children and young people to participate and are responsive to their contributions, thereby strengthening confidence and engagement. |  |  |  |  |
| CSS 4 | Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing. |  |  |  |  |
| 4.1 | Families participate in decisions affecting their child. |  |  |  |  |
| 4.2 | The church engages and openly communicates with families and the community about its child safe approach and relevant information is accessible. |  |  |  |  |
| 4.3 | Families and communities have a say in the development and review of the church’s policies and practices. |  |  |  |  |
| 4.4 | Families, carers and the community are informed about the church’s operations and governance. |  |  |  |  |
| CSS 5 | Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice. |  |  |  |  |
| 5.1 | The church, including staff and volunteers, understands children and young people’s diverse circumstances, and provides support and responds to those who are vulnerable. |  |  |  |  |
| 5.2 | Children and young people have access to information, support and complaints processes in ways that are culturally safe, accessible and easy to understand. |  |  |  |  |
| 5.3 | The church pays particular attention to the needs of children and young people with disability, children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, those who are unable to live at home, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children and young people. |  |  |  |  |
| 5.4 | The church pays particular attention to the needs of Aboriginal children and young people and provides/promotes a culturally safe environment for them. |  |  |  |  |
| CSS 6 | People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice. |  |  |  |  |
| 6.1 | Recruitment, including advertising, referee checks and staff and volunteer pre‑employment screening, emphasise child safety and wellbeing. |  |  |  |  |
| 6.2 | Relevant staff and volunteers have current working with children checks or equivalent background checks. |  |  |  |  |
| 6.3 | All staff and volunteers receive an appropriate induction and are aware of their responsibilities to children and young people, including record keeping, information sharing and reporting obligations. |  |  |  |  |
| 6.4 | Ongoing supervision and people management is focused on child safety and wellbeing. |  |  |  |  |
| CSS 7 | Processes for complaints and concerns are child focused. |  |  |  |  |
| 7.1 | The church has an accessible, child focused complaint handling policy which clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of leadership, staff and volunteers, approaches to dealing with different types of complaints, breaches of relevant policies or the Code of Conduct and obligations to act and report. |  |  |  |  |
| 7.2 | Effective complaint handling processes are understood by children and young people, families, staff and volunteers, and are culturally safe. |  |  |  |  |
| 7.3 | Complaints are taken seriously, and responded to promptly and thoroughly. |  |  |  |  |
| 7.4 | The church has policies and procedures in place that address reporting of complaints and concerns to relevant authorities, whether or not the law requires reporting, and co-operates with law enforcement. |  |  |  |  |
| 7.5 | Reporting, privacy and employment law obligations are met. |  |  |  |  |
| CSS 8 | Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training. |  |  |  |  |
| 8.1 | Staff and volunteers are trained and supported to effectively implement the church’s child safety and wellbeing policy. |  |  |  |  |
| 8.2 | Staff and volunteers receive training and information to recognise indicators of child harm including harm caused by other children and young people. |  |  |  |  |
| 8.3 | Staff and volunteers receive training and information to respond effectively to issues of child safety and wellbeing and support colleagues who disclose harm. |  |  |  |  |
| 8.4 | Staff and volunteers receive training and information on how to build culturally safe environments for children and young people. |  |  |  |  |
| CSS 9 | Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed. |  |  |  |  |
| 9.1 | Staff and volunteers identify and mitigate risks in the online and physical environments without compromising a child’s right to privacy, access to information, social connections and learning opportunities. |  |  |  |  |
| 9.2 | The online environment is used in accordance with the church’s Code of Conduct and child safety and wellbeing policy and practices. |  |  |  |  |
| 9.3 | Risk management plans consider risks posed by church settings, activities, and the physical environment. |  |  |  |  |
| 9.4 | Churches that contract facilities and services from third parties have procurement policies that ensure the safety of children and young people. |  |  |  |  |
| CSS 10 | **Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.** |  |  |  |  |
| 10.1 | The church regularly reviews, evaluates and improves child safe practices. |  |  |  |  |
| 10.2 | Complaints, concerns and safety incidents are analysed to identify causes and systemic failures to inform continuous improvement. |  |  |  |  |
| 10.3 | The church reports on the findings of relevant reviews to staff and volunteers, community and families and children and young people. |  |  |  |  |
| CSS 11 | Policies and procedures document how the church is safe for children and young people. |  |  |  |  |
| 11.1 | Policies and procedures address all Child Safe Standards. |  |  |  |  |
| 11.2 | Policies and procedures are documented and easy to understand. |  |  |  |  |
| 11.3 | Best practice models and stakeholder consultation informs the development of policies and procedures. |  |  |  |  |
| 11.4 | Leaders champion and model compliance with policies and procedures. |  |  |  |  |
| 11.5 | Staff and volunteers understand and implement policies and procedures. |  |  |  |  |