

Presbytery Central
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
Tiakina nga Tamariki

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER (Champion)

Children and young people rely on those who are around them, care for and work with them to recognise they are in need or at risk and to know how to help. We want to make it easy for all our people who work in our Children's Ministries to help keep a child safe and live without abuse or neglect.

PCANZ Recommend

- that each church has a child protection policy in place that is a living document that guides all staff and volunteers effectively. Everyone should know about these policies and associated procedure, including the children and families involved in your ministries. Should your ministry receive government funding, under the VCA (Vulnerable Children's) 2014 act then it is by law that you have the child protection policies however even if it is not mandatory it is considered good practice.
- That all people either staff or volunteers who have any connection with children or youth in ministry should attend a WOF (Warrant of fitness) certificated course that is run by PYM and this is now mandatory. This course explores Ethics, the code of practice, health and safety, safety management and policies, protection of children and young people and recruitment process and this should be updated every 3 years.
- That all people over the age of 17 who work with children and youth are Police Vetted every 3 years.
- That each church appoints a 'Child Protection Officer' who is on session or Parish Council.

The responsibilities of the person who is appointed to the Child Protection Officer position are not onerous, but it is important that they understand their responsibilities, and these are to ensure that: -

1. All people over the age of 17 yrs who work with children and youth are Police vetted every 3 years and there are records of this.
2. Each person working with children and youth have a current application form with a record of two references
3. That each person has a current WOF certificate
4. That the child protection policies and code of ethics are familiar to all staff and applied consistently
5. That they are familiar with the Child protection policies and can support staff, give advice and be available should there be a need to judge concern.
6. Know the procedures and algorithm to follow should there be a need to report and that there is a written record of such a report.
7. That all new staff or volunteers receive training in these policies as part of their induction.
8. That child protection policies are reviewed annually.