



OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

UnitingCare West is committed to developing and maintaining an open and aware culture which is transparent and accountable, and where leadership, staff and volunteers:

- accept individual and shared responsibility for child safety,
- understand their roles and responsibilities in accordance with the relevant child protection legislation, and
- actively work to raise family, organisation and community awareness of child protection issues.

We are committed to providing nurturing environments where all children feel safe, valued and heard.

UnitingCare West is committed to supporting and protecting children and young people, and we will be proactive and preventative in our approach towards keeping children safe.

We will lift and amplify the voices of children to ensure their views are heard and their concerns are acted on. We will listen to children and young people and help them participate in the decisions that affect their lives.

We will maintain processes for conducting child safe screening for all workers directly engaged in the delivery of services to children, and we will ensure that when partnering with other organisations in child related work, those organisations have child safe screening processes in place for their workers.

We will ensure that UCW workers understand and adhere to the Child Safe Code of Conduct which sets clear boundaries of behavior between adults and children, and will ensure that they are informed, resourced and supported to understand their role in providing a safe environment for children through induction and ongoing training.

We will not tolerate harm to children.

UnitingCare West abhors child abuse.

We will take steps to protect children and young people from anything that jeopardises their safety, welfare or wellbeing.

We will pay particular attention to the needs of vulnerable children, and we will respect diversity and promote equity for all children.

We will educate workers and children to identify signs of harm and child abuse.

We will provide guidance to children about expectations of their interactions with other children and be clear about what is unacceptable behavior.



We are committed to ensuring that all UCW workers are encouraged and supported to report suspected child abuse.

UnitingCare West supports the rights and wellbeing of our workers and encourages their active participation in building and maintaining a secure environment for everyone.

We will encourage and support any person who is aware of or suspects a child is being abused to immediately make a report to the authorities, including police and other statutory authorities.

We will ensure that processes for reporting concerns are clear and accessible, including UCW's Whistleblower Policy and Process.

We will treat all allegations of abuse seriously, with respect and consideration and in alignment with the core values of UCW – empathy, respect, integrity, inclusiveness and commitment.

We will support relevant authorities' investigations into any concerns about children and/or allegations of abuse or harm towards children, and we will comply with all relevant statutory, contractual and legislative requirements in the course of an investigation.

We are committed to continuously seek improvement.

We are committed to the work of implementing the Uniting Church's National Child Safe Policy Framework. This Framework reflects the Royal Commission's ten Child Safe Elements as well as the ten National Principles for Child Safe Organisations as drafted by the Australian Human Rights Commission on behalf of the Council of Australian Governments.

As an agency of the Uniting Church in WA and a member of the UnitingCare Network, UnitingCare West is wholeheartedly committed to the Uniting Church's pledge:

- To continue to understand and to implement the lessons of the Royal Commission and remain open to the insights of survivors and professionals;
- To continuously seek improvement; to regularly renew policies and practices in all parts of the organisation, to ensure that they reflect the best practice for care, service and support of children; and
- To ensure that these priorities are integrated into organisational culture and practices.

We will work faithfully and carefully in the months and years ahead to ensure that child safety is grounded in our organisation and flourishes in our culture and practices.

Peter Fitzpatrick AO
Board Chairperson

18 September 2018

Amanda Hunt
Chief Executive Officer