

SAFE MINISTRY UPDATE

Update: Changes to Working with Children (WWC) Legislation

Amendments to the Working with Children (Screening) Act 2004 that significantly strengthen protections for Western Australian (WA) children, have now passed parliament. The amendments are part of ongoing national WWC Check reform to improve child safety.



The changes provide for the mutual recognition of negative WWC outcomes across states and territories, known in WA as an adverse interstate WWC decision.

This means that anyone who has their application for a WWC Check denied or their WWC Card revoked, in one state or territory, cannot be granted or hold a WWC Check in any state or territory – banned in one, banned in all.

Once the legislation commences, expected in the next few months, the WWC Screening Unit will notify all impacted WA applicants and Card holders and their organisation.

Reminder: Parish Screening Reports

You have now received the Parish Screening Reports for your parish. Please ensure this is tabled at the next Parish Council meeting and discussed to ensure that all volunteers are recorded, those who have left or stopped volunteering have been removed, and those volunteers who need to update or complete screenings and training have been reminded.

Whilst an automated email is sent to volunteers 6 weeks and/or 2 weeks prior to screening and training expiring we have seen that these at times are not delivered, which may be due to a change in email or contact details. It is then important that all volunteers and Parish Council remain vigilant and use the Parish Screening Report to remind and update requirements before they are due.

Are you a Synod Rep?

With Synod fast approaching please ensure you have all your Safe Ministry requirements completed. For Synod Reps this includes:

- Safe Ministry Form 5
- VNPC
- Safe Ministry Training Level 1

Please note if you hold child related role and are the Synod Rep you are required to have the child related screenings over those noted above.

Thank you to those parishes who continue to meet all Safe Ministry requirements and please do not hesitate to reach out to our team for any guidance or assistance

CONTACT US

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