



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

SC002 - AUSTRALIAN SAFE CHURCH RELATED LAWS

The C3 Australia Safe Church Manual (Policy and Guidelines) have been written to assist compliance with Australian state and federal legislation, including the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse's, 10 Child Safe Standards and the Victorian State - 7 Child Safe Standards.

This Implementation Information provides a list of, and references to, relevant Australian child protection legislation and state government websites, current as of December 2020. For the current official version of legislation go to: <https://legify.com.au>.

For child protection legislation see the Commonwealth Government's Australian Institute of Family Studies. <https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/australian-child-protection-legislation>

The following, whilst not an exhaustive list, local churches need to be aware of and comply with these laws.

In general:

- fosters people's health as well as developmental and spiritual needs (e.g. self-respect and dignity) as related to civil litigation claims and WHS & ACNC governance standards; and
- processes that uphold principles of natural justice when for responding to workplace misconduct allegations of abuse and misconduct (including child protection and sexual harassment).

More specifically compliance with:

- Work Health and Safety and/or other safety legislation;
- criminal codes (e.g. concealment of crime, consent, sexual harassment);
- child protection legislation;
- elder abuse legislation;
- Working With Children Checks;
- Australian Standards (e.g. building);
- ACNC
- copyright and music playing licences such as APRA, CCLI, CAL licences; and
- local government food preparation and storage guidelines.

Version 20201221

Copyright © 2020 Safe Ministry Resources Pty Ltd

The **Safe Ministry Framework** is developed and owned by SMR Pty Ltd.

It is freely available to churches and denominations to use and adapt with permission.

Please contact SMR Pty Ltd at email info@safercommunities.net.au to seek permission.

SMR can also provide customisation of the **Safe Ministry Framework** for your church or denomination.

Disclaimer: This publication is not legal advice. The ideas and procedures herein are based on nationally recognised good practice advice for Safe Ministry and have been written with due regard to Australian legislation March 2020. Legal advice may need to be sought when responding to individual incidents.

Commonwealth

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009 - 2020	The <i>National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020</i> ('National Framework'), was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in April 2009. The intention is for the Australian child protection regulatory framework to be based on this report. The National Framework is applied by eight state and territory legislative regimes. In delivery of government funded child services the contractual framework applies the National Framework by requiring providers to comply with the legislative requirements. This action checklist needs to be supplemented by reference back to the relevant state or territory legislation and contractual obligations. The six supporting outcomes of the National Framework are: • children live in safe and supportive families and communities, • children and families access adequate support to promote safety and intervene early, • risk factors for child abuse and neglect are addressed, • children who have been abused or neglected receive the support and care they need for their safety and wellbeing, • indigenous children are supported and safe in their families and communities, • child sexual abuse and exploitation is prevented, and survivors receive adequate support.	https://www.dss.gov.au/our-responsibilities/families-and-children/programs-services/protecting-australias-children

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
National Principles for Child Safe Organisations 	In December 2017, further to legislation, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse released its recommendations, volume 6 relates to child safe organisations and volume 16 relates to religious institutions. The National Office for Child Safety was established in response to the Royal Commission The National Principles collectively show that a child safe organisation is one that creates a culture, adopts strategies and takes action to promote child wellbeing and prevent harm to children and young people. A child safe organisation consciously and systematically: - creates an environment where children's safety and wellbeing is the centre of thought, values and actions - places emphasis on genuine engagement with, and valuing of children - creates conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people - creates conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm - responds to any concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions	https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles/download-national-principles

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations



1 Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational **leadership, governance and culture.**



2 Children and young people are informed about their **rights, participate** in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.



3 Families and communities are **informed and involved** in promoting child safety and wellbeing.



4 **Equity** is upheld and **diverse needs** respected in policy and practice.



5 People working with children and young people are suitable and **supported** to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.



6 Processes to respond to **complaints and concerns** are child focused.



7 **Staff and volunteers** are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through **ongoing education and training.**



8 **Physical and online environments** promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.



9 Implementation of the national child safe principles is **regularly reviewed and improved.**



10 **Policies and procedures** document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.



Australian Government

For more information, please visit
<https://pmc.gov.au/child-safety>
<https://chilsafe.humanrights.gov.au/>



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986		https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/mission-general/publications/know-your-rights-about-us
Disability Discrimination Act 1992		https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/disability-rights/publications/disability-discrimination-act-25th-anniversary-easy-read
Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012		https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/11_2012/factsheet_amended_201112.pdf
Racial Discrimination Act 1975		https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/employers/racial-discriminationdiscrimination/publications/fact-sheet-racism-it-stops-me-community-service
Family Law Act, 1975		https://www.afp.gov.au/what-we-do/crime-types/family-law-kit
Sex Discrimination Act 1984 Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986		https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/sex-discrimination/publications/guidelines-special-measures-under-sex-discrimination-act



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
The federal government has also ratified the <i>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)</i> [Ratified by Australian Parliament, 17 December 1990]		https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx
Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) Governance Standards	Standard 1: Purposes and not-for-profit nature. Standard 2: Accountability to members Standard 3: Compliance with Australian laws. Standard 4: Suitability of Responsible Persons Standard 5: Duties of Responsible Persons Under Governance Standard 5 your charity must take reasonable steps to make sure its responsible persons meet certain duties. The following is a general summary of what each duty requires. 1. Act with reasonable care and diligence 2. Act honestly in the best interests of the charity and for its purposes. 3. Not misuse the position of responsible person 4. Not to misuse information obtained in performing duties 5. Disclose any actual or perceived conflict of interest 6. Ensure that the charity's financial affairs are managed responsibly 7. Not allow a charity to operate while insolvent	https://www.acnc.gov.au/for-charities/manage-your-charity/governance-hub/governance-standards



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Australian Capital Territory

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Children and Young People Act 2008	Statutory Body: Relevant Legislation sections: What to report – s. 354 Who are Mandatory reporters? S.- 356	https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/View/a/2008-19/current/PDF/2008-19.PDF https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/children/child-and-youth-protection-services/report-child-abuse-and-neglect
Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011		https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/app/answers/detail/a_id/1804/~/working-with-vulnerable-people-%28wwwvp%29-registration
Royal Commission Criminal Justice Legislation Amendment Act 2019	From 1 September 2019 adults who reasonably believe that a sexual offence has been committed against a child, must make a report to police. Failure to make a report is an offence. The new offence has been introduced in response to recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Also Failure to protect and ministers of religion now mandated reporters under the <i>Children and Young People Act 2008</i> ;	https://www.act.gov.au/childabuseroyalcommission/formalresponse/new-laws-to-improve-reporting-of-child-abuse
ACT Reportable Conduct Scheme	This scheme has been extended to all religious organisations. The reportable conduct scheme addresses employment related child protection. “Broadly, ‘reportable conduct’ covers allegations or convictions of child abuse or misconduct toward children. The reportable conduct scheme does not interfere with reporting obligations to ACT Policing or Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) or any other relevant professional bodies.” (<i>The ACT Reportable Conduct Scheme: An Introduction - February 2018</i>).	https://www.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1397659/Factsheet-Reportable-Conduct-Changes.pdf



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

NSW

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)	Statutory Body: Family & Community Services Relevant Legislation sections: What to report – s.23 Who are Mandatory reporters? – s.27	https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/acts/1998-157.pdf https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/Protecting-kids/reporting-child-at-risk
Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012		https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/2012/51
Commission for Children and Young People Act, 1998 (NSW)		https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/inforce/4d329f0b-0983-e6ac-d6fd-83cb6190360e/1998-146.pdf
Crimes Act 1900	Concealing serious indictable offence s.316	https://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/act/1900/40
Failure to report child abuse offence (S.316A of the crimes act)	Adults are required to report information to police if they know, believe or reasonably ought to know that a child has been abused (physically or sexually). A person will have a reasonable excuse for not reporting if the victim is now an adult and doesn't want the offence reported, or if the offence has already been reported to FaCS, or if the person fears for their safety or another person's safety if they report.	https://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/Documents/Media%20Releases/2018/new-legislation-to-strengthen-child-abuse-laws-summary.pdf
Failure to protect offence Crimes act S.43b	An adult working in an institution doing child-related work will commit an offence if they know another adult working there poses a serious risk of abusing a child and they have the power to reduce or remove the risk, and they fail to do so.	https://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/Documents/Media%20Releases/2018/new-legislation-to-strengthen-child-abuse-laws-summary.pdf



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Grooming offences	Grooming <u>an adult</u>, where a person provides gifts or money to an adult with the intention of making it easier to access a child in their care for unlawful sexual activity. The offence will be punishable by up to six years imprisonment Grooming offences -Any adult who offers a child a material or financial benefit with the intention of making it easier to access the child for unlawful sexual activity.	https://www.justice.nsw.gov.au/Documents/Media%20Releases/2018/new-legislation-to-strengthen-child-abuse-laws-summary.pdf
The Civil Liability Amendments (CLA)	This has been in place from 26 October 2018, and it means that: a) All organisations (e.g. churches), including unincorporated associations, can be sued (as the proper defendant) in relation to child abuse. b) It is now the duty of organisations to prevent child abuse (the burden of proof has been reversed), i.e. "The organisation is presumed to have breached its duty of care unless the organisation establishes that it took reasonable precautions to prevent the child abuse." c) Organisations can be held responsible for the actions of their employees or anyone 'akin to an employee' if they abuse a child associated with the organisation, this is called "vicarious liability". 'Akin to an employee' is anyone who "carries out activities as an integral part of the activities carried on by the organisation and does so for the benefit of the organisation" (includes volunteers). d) The Act says: "An organisation and any successor of that organisation are, for the purposes of this Part, taken to be the same organisation", e.g. if an organisation (church) takes over another organisation (church) the new organisation (church) is liable for duty of care failures that occurred previously.	https://inbrief.nswbar.asn.au/posts/bb24741e67431b27a08039cbb343ef1c/attachment/Civil_Liab_Amdmt_Org_Child_Abuse_Liability_Bill.pdf



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Child Safe Standards	1. Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture 2. Children participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously 3. Families and communities are informed and involved 4. Equity is upheld, and diverse needs are taken in to account 5. People working with children are suitable and supported 6. Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused 7. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training 8. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur 9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved 10. Policies and procedures document how the institution is child safe.	https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/802/Factsheet_Child_Safe_Standards_OCG.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Regulation of Child Safe Standards in NSW	The Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG) is working to design and implement responses to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission). The government proposes: Child safe standards aim to ensure that the cultural, operational and environmental aspects of an organisation are focused on child safety. The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations derive from the Royal Commission's child safe standards. Both outline the same elements for child safe practice. We propose approaching regulation in a way that recognises that if organisations are implementing the National Principles, they would be considered to be simultaneously implementing the child safe standards. Monitoring undertaken will involve assessment against the child safe standards as they would be mandatory in NSW. (Extracted from: "Making organisations safer for children – Regulation of child safe standards in NSW – Consultation Report")	https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/316/Standards_Consultation_summary.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/316/Standards_Consultation_report_full.pdf.aspx?Embed=Y
Children's Guardian Act 2019	This Act consolidates the powers and functions of the Children's Guardian into one Act (this includes the Children's Guardian's powers in relation to out-of-home care, adoption, children's employment, reportable conduct, and official community visitors)	https://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-organisations/reportable-conduct-scheme



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Northern Territory

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Care and Protection of Children Act 2007	Statutory Body: Community Support and Care Relevant Legislation sections: What to report – s. 14, 15, 20 Who are Mandatory reporters? – s.26	https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/CARE-AND-PROTECTION-OF-CHILDREN-ACT-2007 https://nt.gov.au/community/child-protection-and-care/child-abuse
Working with Children Clearance		https://nt.gov.au/emergency/community-safety/apply-for-a-working-with-children-clearance
Mandatory reporting of domestic violence to the police		https://www.rahc.com.au/sites/default/files/pictures/Mandatory%20Reporting_Domestic%20Violence.pdf https://nt.gov.au/law/crime/domestic-and-family-violence/report-domestic-and-family-violence
Mandatory child at risk reporting for all adults in NT		https://www.rahc.com.au/sites/default/files/pictures/Mandatory%20Reporting_Sexual%20Offences.pdf https://nt.gov.au/law/crime/report-child-abuse
Criminal Code ACT 1983		https://legislation.nt.gov.au/en/Legislation/CRIMINAL-CODE-ACT-1983
Work Health and Safety Act 2011		https://worksafe.nt.gov.au/



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Queensland

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Child Protection Act 1999	Statutory Body: Department of Child Safety Youth and Women Relevant Legislation sections: What to report – s. 13E Who are Mandatory reporters? – S. 13E	https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/2018-07-23/act-1999-010 https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/child-family/protecting-children/reporting-child-abuse
Working With Children (Risk Management & Screening) Act 2000	Known as the Blue Card System Note – new “no card no start” law.	https://www.bluecard.qld.gov.au
Family and Child Commission Act 2014		https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/2014-07-01/act-2014-027
Criminal Code Act 1899	New failure to report from child sexual abuse and failure to protect children from sexual abuse enacted 2020.	https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-1899-009
Civil Liability Act 2003		https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-2003-016
Work Health and Safety Act 2011		https://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/view/pdf/inforce/current/act-2011-018



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

South Australia

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017	Statutory Body: Department for Child Protection Relevant Legislation sections: What to report – s.31 Who are Mandatory reporters? – S.30	https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/CHILDREN%20AND%20YOUNG%20PEOPLE%20(SAFETY)%20ACT%202017/CURRENT/2017.25.AUTH.PDF https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse
Child Protection (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016 Screening clearance certificate		https://screening.sa.gov.au/home
Work Health and Safety Act 2012		https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/WORK%20HEALTH%20AND%20SAFETY%20ACT%202012.aspx
Criminal Law Consolidation Act 1935		https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/CRIMINAL%20LAW%20CONSOLIDATION%20ACT%201935/CURRENT/1935.2252.AUTH.PDF
Wrongs Act 1936		https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/CIVIL%20LIABILITY%20ACT%201936/2001.08.15/1936.2267.PDF



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Tasmania

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997	Statutory Body: Department of Health and Human Services Relevant Legislation sections: What to report – s. 14 Who are Mandatory reporters? – s. 14	https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1997-028 https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/children
Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 2016		https://www.childcomm.tas.gov.au/what-we-do/
Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013		https://www.cbos.tas.gov.au/topics/licensing-and-registration/registrations/work-with-vulnerable-people
Wrongs Act 1954		https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/2015-10-13/act-1954-014
Criminal Code 1924		https://www.legislation.tas.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1924-069
Work Health and Safety Act 2012		https://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/273512/Guide_to_the_Work_Health_and_Safety_Act_2012.pdf



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Victoria

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Crimes Act 1958	Offences: s.49M; Failure by a person in authority to protect a child from a sexual offence s.49O Grooming s.327 Failure to disclose sexual offence committed against child under the age of 16 years	https://content.legislation.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/58-6231aa293%20authorised.pdf
Children Well-being and Safety Act 2005 – Part 5A Reportable Conduct Scheme; Part 6 Child Safety Standards.		https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/child-wellbeing-and-safety-act-2005/030
<i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i>	Statutory Body: Relevant Legislation sections: What to report – s. 162 Who are Mandatory reporters? – s. 182, 184	https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/children-youth-and-families-act-2005/121 https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/child-protection
Working with Children Act 2005		https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 - Protection of families and children		https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/charter-human-rights-and-responsibilities-act-2006/014
The Commission for Children and Young People Act 2012		https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/in-force/acts/commission-children-and-young-people-act-2012/016
Wrongs Amendment (Organisational Child Abuse) Bill 2016		https://www.legislation.vic.gov.au/bills/wrongs-amendment-organisational-child-abuse-bill-2016
Betrayal of Trust legislation	This legislation means it is an offence for people who hold a position of responsibility who fail to protect a child from sexual abuse when they know someone associated with their organisation poses a risk of sexually abusing children, and an offence for individuals who fail to inform the police if they know or believe that a child has been sexually abused	https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/safer-communities/protecting-children-and-families/betrayal-of-trust-fact-sheet-the-new
The Victorian Reportable Conduct scheme	This scheme requires organisations to respond to allegations of child related misconduct made against their workers and volunteers, and report those allegations to the Commission for Children and Young People.	https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/RCSInfoSheetUpdates/AboutRCS120718.pdf https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/Uploads/religious-orgs-guidance-web-lower-resolution.pdf



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
The Victorian Child Safe Standards	1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, through effective leadership arrangements 2: A Child Safety Policy or Statement of Commitment to Child Safety 3: A Code of Conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resource practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel 5: Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children	https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/CSSGuideFinalV4-Web-New.pdf https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/resources/guides-and-information-sheets/ https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/CSS-poster-web.pdf https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/ https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/the-child-safe-standards/



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Western Australia

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913		https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_37141.pdf/\$FILE/Criminal%20Code%20Act%20Compilation%20Act%201913%20-%20%5B19-a0-00%5D.pdf?OpenElement
Children and Community Services Act 2004	Statutory Body: Department of Communities, Child Protection and Family Support Relevant Legislation sections: What to report – S. 124A Who are Mandatory reporters? – S. 124B Note: Mandatory reporting responsibilities has extended to included ministers of religion.	https://www.dcp.wa.gov.au/Pages/Home.aspx https://www.legislation.wa.gov.au/legislation/prod/filestore.nsf/FileURL/mrdoc_41834.pdf/\$FILE/Children%20and%20Community%20Services%20Act%202004%20-%20%5B05-a0-01%5D.pdf?OpenElement https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/Mandatory-reporting-legislation-to-be-extended-to-ministers-of-religion.aspx
Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004		https://workingwithchildren.wa.gov.au
Civil Liability Act 2002		https://www.slp.wa.gov.au/statutes/swans.nsf/(DownloadFiles)/Civil+Liability+Act+2002.pdf/\$file/Civil+Liability+Act+2002.pdf



AUSTRALIA SAFE CHURCH IMPLEMENTATION KIT 2020

Document or Resource	Notes	Further Information
New Work Health and Safety Bill	Information sessions will be held throughout September 2019	https://www.commerce.wa.gov.au/work-safe/modernising-work-health-and-safety-laws-wa
WA implementation of Royal Commission recommendations	Including Children and Community Services Act 2004 to be amended to introduce mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse for ministers of religion, including where this knowledge is gained through religious confession Changes deliver on recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to extend mandatory reporting to religious confession Shared national database of Working With Children (WWC) check negative notices; and to progress work on recommendations such as the implementation of child safe standards, addressing harmful sexual behaviours, improving supports for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse; and the introduction of broader mandatory reporting requirements; Recommendations related to independent oversight of institutions providing child-related services; WA Police Force to replace and enhance recording equipment to interview children and to digitise historical criminal records to improve WWC check processes; and Ombudsman to progress work on recommendations related to a reportable conduct scheme for WA.	https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2019/05/Mandatory-reporting-legislation-to-be-extended-to-ministers-of-religion.aspx