



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

CULTURE OF SAFETY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR RETIRED MINISTERS

Must I have a Working with Children/ Vulnerable People Check/Registration?

Yes, if you engage in any ministry practice (occasional worship leadership, pastoral ministry, minister in association, any other leadership) and/or hold a marriage celebrant licence, you are required to have a WWCC (Vic) or WWCVPR (Tas).

If a retired minister does not want to maintain their marriage celebrant licence and does no other ministry they would not require a check and would be removed from the celebrant list. Anyone removed from the celebrant list will be notified.

How do I obtain a Working with Children/Vulnerable People Check/Registration?

The application process is reasonably straight forward. It does require access to the internet because all applications are online. If you are not in paid employment, you should apply for a volunteer card (free); if you are being paid for ministry, you will need to apply for an employee card (payment is required).

In Victoria: www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/home/applications/apply+for+a+check/apply+in+victoria#

In Tasmania: <https://wwcforms.justice.tas.gov.au/RegistrationForm.aspx>

In NSW: www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-working-children-check

When asked to list the address details of your organisations (voluntary or paid), it is important that you include both your primary

congregation at its correct postal address and your primary congregation, c/o 130 Little Collins Street, Melbourne 3000.

The Culture of Safety unit is able to assist you with the application process. Please contact cultureofsafetycontact@victas.uca.org.au or 9251 5245 Monday –Thursday.

Must I get supervision?

The answer is YES if you are offering supervision to others OR when you are engaging in an ongoing supply or interim ministry. The answer is NO if you are taking weddings and funerals and the occasional Sunday service. But always seek out supervision if you have a question about your own boundaries or ethical stance.

Must I attend Code of Ethics training?

Retired ministers are required to attend Code of Ethics training if they are in active ministry practice, intentional interim ministry, supply ministry, pastoral ministry, acting as a supervisor, minister in association, associated minister, or taking a leadership role in a congregation. A retired minister who is offering no ministry practice is not required to attend.

Am I bound by the Code of Ethics?

Yes. The Code of Ethics applies to Deacons, Deaconesses and Ministers of the Word, whether or not they are in an approved placement.