Safe Buildings for Mission
A Commitment to Safe Buildings

Commonwealth & State Legislation

Safe Use of Buildings

Protections for Persons

Inclusion & Accessibility

Key Aspects of Legislation Applicable to Church & Hall Buildings

- Buildings must be fit for purpose.
- A building may be closed by an authority.
- New work must be undertaken to new standards.
- Existing buildings require upgrades to remain fit for purpose.
- Essential Safety Measures are mandatory.
- Emergency Management is essential.

- Everyone has a Duty of Care.
- Hazards must be removed or reduced as far a reasonably practicable.
- Control measures must be implemented.
- Consultation must occur to maintain a safe work environment.
- Communication must be in all forms necessary to ensure understanding by all persons.

- To avoid a claim against discrimination a public building requires access to persons with a disability.
- Emergency processes must consider the needs of all persons.
- It is not possible to certify against possible areas of liability.

Physical Environment - Checklist for Church Councils

- Church and Hall buildings require an Essential Safety Measures Schedule. A Log Book records all maintenance attendance. An Annual ESM Report is required by law in Victoria & Tasmania.

- Church and Hall buildings require an Emergency Management Plan and the display of compliant Emergency Evacuation Diagrams. The diagram is required be reviewed every 5 years. (Required in Tasmania if the occupancy is capable of being > 200 persons)

- Engage a qualified Building Surveyor, Architect or Disability Access Consultant to identify what is needed to comply with equitable access obligations.

- Implement a budgeted Asset Management Plan including planned upgrades and a cyclic maintenance program to ensure ongoing safety of all Church buildings.

Preparation for a new building project requires the investigation and assessment of all existing physical and statutory conditions before commencing a design.

All Church property including commercial tenancy built prior to 2003 must hold a current Asbestos Register. The register is required to be reviewed every 5 years.

Consult with the Synod Safety Officer for an OHS Safety Audit for all Church property - respond to the Risk Report and remedy Hazards.

*For advice on preparing and maintaining Safe Building for Mission contact Property Services.

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