

Model Communication to Affiliated Entities

Name
Organisation
Address
State Postcode

By email

Confidential

Dear [Salutation]

Compliance with legislated child safe standards: Affiliated Entities

[Insert church name] is committed to the safety of all people who attend its activities and services, particularly children.

As an affiliated entity, we are interested in the approach you take to matters relating to child safety. The purpose of this letter is to draw your attention to:

- the **enclosed** recommendation 16.35 made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (**Royal Commission**);
 - In responding to this recommendation in a Baptist context, the most appropriate process is for an 'affiliated entity' to report to the local church that it is affiliated with, rather than reporting to the denomination. Notwithstanding this, the local church should also report to the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT about significant adverse child protection matters arising within entities affiliated with that local church.
- the Child Safe Scheme administered by the NSW Office of Children's Guardian (NSWOCG) which makes the Child Safe Standards mandatory for organisations that provide services to children (as set out at section 8C of the *Children's Guardian Act 2019* (NSW)).

For more information about the Child Safe Standards please see <https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/child-safe-scheme/why-we-have-child-safe-standards>

We ask that [name of entity] reports to [name of church] on an annual basis regarding their compliance with the Child Safe Standards. This report should detail at a high-level how the entity is complying with the Child Safe Standards. Where there are other obligations to report compliance with the Child Safe Standards (for example, under a funding agreement or as part of registration renewal), it will be sufficient to share this report with the Church.

We hope that shared reporting and responsibility for child safety will demonstrate to both members of the Church, the community, and the broader public that we are united in our efforts to create safe spaces for everyone, and particularly children.

Please do not hesitate to contact [insert contact] if you would like to discuss any aspect of this request.

Yours faithfully

[insert signatory name]

Model Paragraph for Communicating with Affiliated Entities

Paragraph to insert in communication (as an alternative to the letter to affiliated entities]

In accordance with the Royal Commission's recommendation, Baptist churches are advised to require all affiliated entities to report annually regarding compliance with the 10 Child Safe Standards.

[Name of church] requests that [name of affiliated entity] ensures that a report regarding compliance with the Child Safe Standards is included in their regular annual report to the Church. This report should detail how the entity is complying with each of the Child Safe Standards.

(Royal Commission) Recommendation 16.35

Religious institutions in highly regulated sectors, such as schools and out-of-home care service providers, should report their compliance with the Royal Commission's 10 Child Safe Standards, as monitored by the relevant sector regulator, to the religious organisation to which they are affiliated.

In responding to this recommendation in a Baptist context, the most appropriate process is for an 'affiliated entity' to report to the local church that it is affiliated with, rather than reporting to the denomination. Notwithstanding this, the local church should also report to the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT about significant adverse child protection matters arising within entities affiliated with that local church.