



Handling Disclosures and Reporting Protocols

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has highlighted the many incidences of child sexual abuse that have happened in our churches and institutions over many years. This may help people who have been abused to speak out for the first time, whether the incident occurred in the past or more recently. If a disclosure or an abuse incident happens within your congregation, school and/or agency you may find the following information helpful.

Handling Disclosures

Listen...do not add anything to what the person says

Reassure...them and acknowledge the large step forward they have taken in speaking to you

Inform...the person that there are people who can help them (See below for contact details)

Ensure...the person is in a safe state of mind, before they leave you

Act...by walking beside them when and if they decide to report the matter to the authorities

How to Report

When adults disclose historical child sexual abuse they should be encouraged to report the alleged abuse to Police or a counsellor. If the alleged abuser was a minister or member of the Uniting Church, this must be reported to the General Secretary.

All disclosures from children and young people alleging harm, abuse or neglect should be reported to both Child Protection Services and local Police. Please also inform the General Secretary of the allegation and the proposed plan of support in your congregation, school and/or agency.

Reporting Contacts and Counselling Services

Uniting Church Contacts

General Secretary
Rev David de Kock
Ph: (08) 9260 9800
Ph: 1300 736 692
Email: general.secretary@wa.uca.org.au

Safe Church Officer
Cindy Gorton
Ph: 9260 9800
Email: cindy.gorton@wa.uca.org.au

Pastoral & Placements Co-ordinator
Rev Mark Illingworth
Ph: 08 9260 9800
Email: mark.illingworth@wa.uca.org.au

Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Ph: 1800 099 340 (toll free within Australia)
Calls from a mobile or pay telephone will attract additional charges.
www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

SARC – Sexual Assault Resource Centre

(for recent or past assaults)
SARC provides services to people, male or female, aged 13 years and over who have been sexually assaulted or sexually abused.
Ph: (08) 93401828 or 1800 199 888 (24 hour service)
www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/services/sarc/index.htm

Relationships Australia

Relationships Australia WA has been selected to support people who are thinking about or wishing to give evidence at the Royal Commission.
Ph: 9489 6390 or 1300 364 277
www.wa.relationships.com.au/en/Services/royal-commission-support-service

AnglicareWA - Royal Commission Support Services

Services are available across WA with offices in Perth, Albany and Broome.
Support, counselling and information are provided to any person who was sexually abused while in institutional care as a child; family members; whistle blowers & perpetrators.
Ph: 1800 156 155
Email: royalcommission@anglicarewa.org.au