

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Suburban Baptist Church, following the example of Jesus Christ, is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children. We have zero tolerance for child abuse.
- 1.2. Everyone working and volunteering at Suburban Baptist Church is responsible for the care and protection of children and reporting information about child abuse.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is:

- 2.1. To facilitate the prevention of child abuse occurring within Suburban Baptist Church;
- 2.2. To work towards an organisational culture of child safety;
- 2.3. To ensure that all parties are aware of their responsibilities for identifying possible occasions for child abuse and for establishing controls and procedures for preventing such abuse and/or detecting such abuse when it occurs;
- 2.4. To provide guidance to staff and volunteers as to action that should be taken where they suspect any abuse within or outside of the organisation;
- 2.5. To provide a clear statement to staff, volunteers and participants of the Church community forbidding any such abuse;
- 2.6. To provide assurance that any and all suspected abuse will be reported and fully investigated.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. Suburban Baptist Church is committed to promoting and protecting at all times the best interests of children involved in its programs.
- 3.2. All children have equal rights to protection from abuse.
- 3.3. Suburban Baptist Church has zero tolerance for child abuse. Everyone working and volunteering at Suburban Baptist Church is responsible for the care and protection of the children within our care and reporting information about suspected child abuse.
- 3.4. If staff or volunteers believe a child to be at immediate risk of abuse they will contact the police (telephone 000).
- 3.5. Child protection is a shared responsibility between all employees, volunteers, members and participants of the Church community.

Date: 19/08/2016

Signed:  (Church Administrator)

Print name: M. Brown

Signed:  (Elder)

Print name: TIMOTHY D. LOFTIS

Decision: 16003

- 3.6. Suburban Baptist Church will consider the opinions of children and seek to give them a voice concerning child safety.
- 3.7. Suburban Baptist Church will respect all children, and is committed to supporting Aboriginal children and those from a culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds; and to providing a safe environment for children living with a disability.

REFERENCES

Legislative and other external references
Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)
Crimes Act 1958 (VIC)
Children, Youth and Families Act 2005 (VIC)