



# Presbyterian Youth Victoria

## Safe Churches Code of Conduct - PYV Supplement

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In response to the introduction of the PCV Safe Church Policy, PYV has adopted the following policies and guidelines, specific to PYV ministry.

### **Risk: PYV Constitution doesn't acknowledge 18+ at camps/events (CONSTITUTION)**

To formally acknowledge PYV works with campers over the age of 18 as well as under, the following amendment to the Constitution will be proposed approval at the 2014 PYV AGM.

PYV Constitution  
1.2

For the purposes of PYV ministry, youth is defined as anyone between the ages of 12-21. PYV also ministers to children aged 0-11.

### **Risk: Over 18 year old Campers (POLICY)**

PYV will continue to include campers who are over the age of 18 alongside campers under the age of 18.

#### **Mitigate risks by:**

- 18+ campers will be *strongly* encouraged to obtain a WWCC prior to coming on camp. (Volunteer card, with PYV as their organisation)
- 18+ campers will be taken aside on the first day, to go through the legal consequences of being on camp with under 18's, what behaviour is reportable and the consequences for a breach (Warning first, then consequences at the Convenor discretion).
- 18+ campers will be required to sign a declaration when registering stating they understand what is expected of them, and that attendance at the meeting on day 1 is compulsory
- During the registration process, parents of campers under the age of 18 must sign a declaration to acknowledge there may be 18+ campers present on camp. Contact details referring them to the Youth Ministries Director for further information will be provided.

### **Risk: Communication between leaders and under 18's outside PYV events (GUIDELINE)**

To supplement the PCV Safe Church Social Media guideline, PYV adds the further guidelines as best practice:

- In an online setting, PYV leaders may not initiate a friend request to a camper under the age of 18. In the event of a camper under the age of 18 requesting online contact, to the best of their ability the leader should seek the parents permission before accepting the friend request.
- Private one-on-one messages (via facebook, text, email etc) are discouraged. If a message is needed, include at least 1 other PYV leader who is over 18 years in the conversation. This doesn't mean they are involved in the conversation, but rather are just there to observe, as a safe guard and accountability measure.
- Parental permission should be obtained before any phone/skype/facetime communication.
- Remember: All online communication can always be found.
- Just as leaders are prohibited from being alone in a room with a camper, leaders should strive to achieve this in digital formats as well.

### **Risk: Unannounced/Unregistered visitors at campsite (POLICY)**

Arrival of unexpected visitors (with the exception of parents picking up & dropping off)

#### **Mitigate risks by:**

- PYV will not allow any unannounced visitors during camps.
- Any arrivals will immediately be sent off the campsite.
- Any visitors must have prior permission from the Convenor, as well as having given PYV their current WWCC details.

### **Risk: Child/Adult sleeping arrangements (POLICY)**

PYV camps involving campers both under and over the age of 18 pose an increased risk.

#### **Mitigate risks by:**

- Adult (18+) campers may not enter sleeping rooms of under 18 year old campers.
- Child (under 18) campers may not enter sleeping rooms of over 18 year old campers.

### **Risk: Toilets (POLICY)**

Toilets are a high risk location for abuse.

#### **Mitigate risks by:**

- Campers under the age of 18 must go to the bathroom in pairs.

### **Communication with Campers**

Campers need to be made aware of a couple of things:

- The basic behavioural expectations of a leader
- Who they can talk to if they have any concerns

As a result, during the first session campers will be informed that if they have any concerns regarding any matters, they can talk to the camp parents or their study leader.

(An appropriate time to bring this up might be when introducing the camp parents)