



1 October 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

Re: Blue Cards

Across the Queensland Synod, we share a clear commitment: to create safe, welcoming places for children, young people and vulnerable people. Thank you for the care, dedication and faithfulness you bring to this important work.

Over recent months, many of you have shared thoughtful feedback about Safe Church policies, procedures and Blue Card requirements. Thank you for taking the time to engage with this work. We have listened carefully and are working to make sure our safeguarding approach meets our legal responsibilities and is clear and practical for congregations.

What has been approved

I am pleased to let you know that following recent changes to State legislation, the **Safeguarding Policy** and the **Person of Concern (POC) Policy and Procedure** have been revised and approved by the Synod Standing Committee. This is an important step in strengthening the way we keep people safe across the life of the Church.

What happens next

The approved documents give us a strong foundation. We also know long policy documents are not always easy to use, so over the coming months we will turn them into practical, user-friendly guides to help congregations understand and apply them with confidence.

In the meantime, please continue to use the current Safe Church resources on the Hub. These remain valid until updated resources are available.

Some resources and processes will change over time, but our commitment to safeguarding remains constant.

Reporting a concern

If you are worried about the safety or wellbeing of a child or vulnerable person, please report it straight away. It is always better to raise a concern.

You can report a concern through the [Speak Up Incident Reporting system](#), email safechurch@ucaqld.com.au, or contact the Safe Church Team on **(07) 3377 9983**. If you are unsure what to do, please contact your Presbytery or the Safe Church Team for guidance.

Blue Card requirements

A common question has been, “**Who needs a Blue Card?**” We know the requirements can be confusing in church settings, so we want to make this as clear as possible.



The Uniting Church in Australia
QUEENSLAND SYNOD

Blue Cards are a legal safeguard to help make sure the right people are serving in the right roles. The Uniting Church in Queensland applies the minimum legal requirements under Queensland legislation.

Volunteers need a Blue Card when their role is mainly directed towards children, mainly involves children, or includes making decisions about children as part of a committee or governing body. This may include people involved in children's ministry, youth ministry, youth group leadership, and Church Council members whose responsibilities include decisions relating to children. This does not include people involved as administrators, cleaners or caterers (except if in a team with children). This does not include people involved as administrators, cleaners or caterers (except if in a team with children).

Blue Card requirements also apply to **religious representatives**. All ministry agents and ministry candidates must hold a valid Blue Card. If a reasonable person would see someone as a religious representative and their role includes providing services or activities to or with children, they need a Blue Card. This can include lay preachers, lay pastors, ministers and others in similar roles, regardless of formal title.

Before commencing a role within a Congregation or Presbytery that requires a blue card, an individual must hold a valid blue card and be linked to the organisation, which is the responsibility of the organisation.

For further details regarding blue cards requirements, linking and responsibilities of the individual and organisation, please see the attached resource or the [Safe Church section of the Hub](#).

Our call to care

Safeguarding is more than compliance. It is part of our call to care for one another, build trust, and make sure children and vulnerable people can participate safely and confidently in the life of the Church.

The Queensland Synod remains committed to strengthening our approach in line with Child Safe Principles. As new resources are ready, we will share them with you and continue working together to build communities where safety, dignity and wellbeing are part of everything we do.

Thank you for your ongoing ministry, and for all you do to help create safe communities of faith.

Grace & peace,

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh
General Secretary