

Breaking the Silence applies to all persons holding a position of authority within the Presbyterian Church of Australia in those States or Territories where **Breaking the Silence** Edition 3 has been formally adopted by the appropriate State General Assembly, whether paid or unpaid, who are involved in a **child-related** activity, whether permanently or temporarily, and all ministers, deaconesses, licentiates and home missionaries.



NOTE: Breaking the Silence deals specifically with the issue of **abuse of children and young people** and the **abuse of authority** by those **in a position of authority within the church**. It does not apply to any other forms of abuse, grievance or personal injury claim. Words in **bold** have a specific meaning as defined in **Breaking the Silence**.



This document is a summary only. As a guideline it should not be solely relied upon for advice. Those responsible for protecting children and young people, and those in a position of authority within the church, should consult Breaking the Silence Edition 3 and obtain professional advice in each situation and every individual case. Remember, you are not on your own in these matters.

A COMPANION DOCUMENT TO BREAKING THE SILENCE EDITION 3
 BREAKING THE SILENCE: CODE OF CONDUCT BROCHURE EDITION 3 ISSUE 1, SEPT 2008
 © CHILD PROTECTION UNIT
 PRESBYTERIAN SOCIAL SERVICES
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW SOUTH WALES

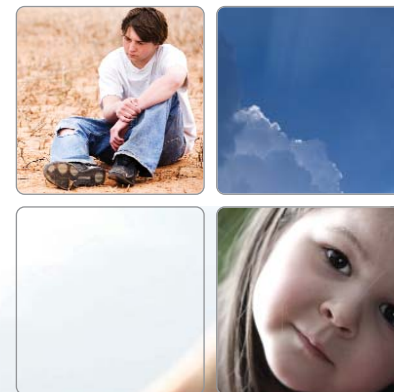
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE ABOUT ANYTHING WITHIN THIS BROCHURE PLEASE CONTACT:

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 Presbyterian Social Services
 PO Box 2196 Strawberry Hills NSW 2012
 (W) 02 9690 9324 (M) 0427 421 467
 E: emcclean@pcnsw.org.au



INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

- | | |
|---|---|
| national | |
| » Kids Help Line | 1800 55 1800 |
| » Lifeline | 13 11 14 |
| australian capital territory | |
| » Office for Children, Youth and Family Support | 02 6207 1466 - southern 02 62071069 - northern 02 6207 0720 - after hours 02 6256 7777 |
| » Australian Federal Police Sexual Assault Unit | |
| new south wales | |
| » Youthline | 1800 551 800 |
| » DoCS Help Line | 13 21 11 |
| » Child Abuse Prevention Services | 02 9716 8000 or 02 9716 8000 (24 hr) |
| northern territory | |
| » Family & Children's Services | 1800 700 250 |
| queensland | |
| » Dept of Families | 07 3224 8045 or 1800 811 810 (after hrs) |
| » Crisis Care | 07 3235 9999 or 1800 177 135 |
| south australia | |
| » Child Abuse Report Line | 13 14 78 |
| tasmania | |
| » Dept of Health Services | 1300 737 639 or 03 6230 7833 |
| victoria | |
| » Dept of Human Services | 03 9616 7777 |
| » Child Protection Crisis Line | 13 12 78 (24 hr) |
| western australia | |
| » Family & Children's Services | 08 9222 2555 or 1800 622 258 |
| » Department of Child Protection | 08 9223 1111 or 1800 199 008 (24 hr) |



**BREAKING THE SILENCE
 CODE OF CONDUCT**





The following constitutes our Code of Conduct for behaviour for a person in a **position of authority within the church**:

1. You will not be involved in any sexual behaviour with a person below the age of consent or a person under your authority, **pastoral care** or counselling. Except with one's own marriage partner, all sexual or sexualised behaviour is forbidden. If you are not married you must abstain from all sexual or sexualised behaviour or activity.
2. You will not exhibit behaviour that could be considered to be **coercion** or **grooming behaviour**.
3. You will not make any sexual innuendos such as suggestive looks, sounds, words, acts or gestures. You will not make any sexual comments, jokes or show any sexual visual material.
4. You will not engage the services of a prostitute, or solicit or provide such services. You may not visit a brothel or any place maintained for the abuse-of-sex industry, nor may you view (in print or otherwise) material of a sexually explicit nature, except for a legitimate purpose which purpose should, in advance, be known to, and be approved in writing by a **supervising body**. You will not engage in sexualised conversation on a chat line whether by telephone, internet or any other means. You will not engage in any activity associated with the production or distribution of any pornographic material whether in print or otherwise.
5. You will not ask any questions about the intimate details of a person's sexual life. Very occasionally, it may be necessary within the context of **pastoral care** to ask questions about a person's sexual life or history. This should be done extremely carefully and with another person present (such as the person's husband or wife or a trusted friend). You must never give detailed revelations about your own sexual life.



6. You will not give any inappropriate gifts or correspondence (including email and text messaging), including those of a sexual, suggestive or romantic nature.
7. You will not touch, hug, or kiss any person in a way that is inappropriate to the situation, or uncomfortable or confusing for the receiver.
8. You will not touch any sexual part of the body, including the "only kidding" or accidental occasions of sexual touch.
9. You will not violate a person's right to physical privacy and personal space, including being alone in the bedroom or bathroom or inappropriate exposure during activities that require dressing or changing clothes.
10. You will not visit a **child or young person** in their own home unless a parent is present or you visit with another person in a **position of authority within the church** with parental permission.
11. You will not conduct a camp or other activity involving overnight accommodation without appropriate "camp parents" (ideally a married couple over the age of 25 years, of known maturity and Christian commitment) approved by the **supervising body**.
12. You will not provide any form of accommodation for any reason where there is not strict segregation by sex, with the exception of married couples and families. Supervision of **children** and/or **young people** must be provided by a person of the same sex.
13. You will not participate in or allow nude swimming or other such activities.
14. You will not participate in or allow initiations and secret ceremonies.
15. You will ensure that any activity involving **children** and/or **young people** are open to observation by parents and other adults with a legitimate interest
16. You will not take advantage of the perception of physical contact, affection and learned sexual actions that some **victims** of abuse display. You will not take advantage of the conscious or unconscious use of sexually provocative behaviour that some **victims** of abuse use to meet their own needs for affection or other requirements.

17. You will not take advantage of your authority for personal gain, including financial gain, participating in bullying, belittling or harassing behaviour to achieve your own ends, manipulative behaviour designed to get your own way by flattery or by suggestions of favouritism, special relationship, or special status, or spiritual abuse designed to get your own way by telling people that God will like them more if they do what you want or like them less if they do not do you want. These are forms of **abuse of authority**.
18. You will ensure that when you are providing **pastoral care** or working with members of the opposite sex that there are other people in close proximity or within hearing distance, regardless of where the activity is taking place.
19. You will not allow a **child or young person** to sleep in close proximity to an adult, other than a parent or guardian, unless there is a significant separation, and privacy of all parties is respected.
20. You will not allow an adult to share accommodation with one **child or young person** only unless they are a parent or guardian.
21. You will not drive a **child or young person** unaccompanied.



» **AMENDMENTS**

Any changes to this Code of Conduct will be approved by the appropriate **supervising body**, formally recorded by that body. Such changes will only be allowed in respect to the details of points **18, 19, 20** and **21** and will be made on a restricted basis for individuals in specific circumstances for a specific period of time.

» **THE FOLLOWING CHANGES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY YOUR SUPERVISING BODY:**

Person: _____

Activity: _____

Conditions: _____

Valid until (date): _____

» **ANY BREACH OF THIS CODE OF CONDUCT FOR ANY REASON WILL BE REPORTED TO:**

Name: _____

Contact Number: _____

or to the Child Protection Unit on (02) 9690 9324.