



**Victorian**  
Council of Churches

# Council News

June 2019

Victorian Council of Churches

President: Rev Fr Shenouda

Boutros

Executive Officer: Rev Ian

Smith

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## *Reflection*

It's the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and all churches are in this period of living post Easter but prior to Pentecost. Our Indonesian Churches who created the resources for this year have chosen a theme of 'Justice'.

Each day as we participate in the cycle of readings and prayers we are being called to reflect on how we live just lives. Lives that allow others to experience justice as we ourselves experience justice through the Christ event at Easter.

The challenge of this week, it seems to me, is that as we pray for the unity of the people of God there's a sense that we need also need to pray for forgiveness for when we haven't lived justly with our fellow Christians, either dismissing them because they do things differently or ignoring them because we don't want our style, theology or practices challenged.

To pray for unity is to recognize and acknowledge the rich tapestry of Christianity we are blessed to live amongst.

*- Ian*

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I am currently establishing my diary for second half of 2019 and would welcome opportunities to come and share stories of the Council activities with your Church or organization – you can contact me on 03 9650 4511 or email at [ian.smith@vcc.org.au](mailto:ian.smith@vcc.org.au)

## News from the Council

- On June 1st some 60 people gathered for the VCC AGM at St Verena and St Bishoy's Coptic Church to reflect on the year past and set directions for the year ahead, as well as attend to the matters required of Council for its good governance. The AGM also looked at a possible new Strategic plan. (See fuller report on next page)
- Standing Committee is also working towards the re-location of VCC with the news that a property has been purchased that will become the new ecumenical centre in Melbourne. It's hoped that Act for Peace, National Council staff and the VCC will be in and settled by the latter part of 2019. The new address will be Level 6, 608 St Kilda Rd Melbourne. More details later.
- At the AGM, the Victorian Council of Churches gave thanks for the extended work of Ps Gordon Wegener, Mr Ashok Jacob and Mr Gavin Faichney. Each has given in excess of 15 years in leadership of the Council.

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### The new Office

The temporary office of the VCC is housed in the IBM building in Southbank . We are on the 18th floor sharing with Plan International.

Access to the building is via the Plaza which joins the IBM building to the Southbank shopping facilities.

If you wish to visit please ring 9412 8487 and arrange with Nicholas Tsigos

## VCC new Contact details

- phone: 03 9650 4511 or 9412 8487

- email [vcc@vcc.org.au](mailto:vcc@vcc.org.au)

- Web [www.vcc.org.au](http://www.vcc.org.au)

- Facebook [www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches](https://www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches)

- postal address PO Box 561 Flinders Lane Melbourne 8009

## Report on VCC AGM held 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019.

The 2019 AGM was held at St Verena and St Bishoy's Coptic Church in Melbourne's CBD.

The day was particularly satisfying with numbers strong (approx. 60) and good diversity of denominations present, the engagement of participants was good. All experienced a variety of input from the experience of Coptic Matins to the keynote by the Indigenous clergyman, Rev Glenn Loughrey. The participants also engaged in discussions around future directions of Council.

The business side of AGM:

- i. the constitutional changes were accepted
- ii. financials and budget accepted
- iii. Standing Committee was elected
- iv. VCC needs to discover a Treasurer
- v. Rev Ian Smith, Executive Officer, presented further work on the strategic plan which was well received – refocus on revitalising of Council via engagement with member Churches.

A vote of Thanks was given to the three retiring members of Standing Committee who have given tremendous service to the Council. Mr Ashok Jacob and Ps Gordon Wegener, both served as Presidents, while Mr Gavin Faichney has served on the reference group for VCCEM, Living Faiths Commission as well as on local ecumenical council support.

The Council releases Bishop Peter Danaher (Anglican) after two years of Presidency and Installed the Rev Fr Shenouda Boutros (Coptic) as the new President of VCC. A good contingent of Coptic clergy were present to both participate in service and support Fr Shenouda.

The Standing Committee held a brief meeting post AGM – a welcome was given to the Rev Denise Liersch (Moderator Elect, UCA) who has joined Standing Committee.

If people wish to receive the VCC Annual Report please contact the office and we'll forward one to you.



### Scenes from the AGM

Above– Fr Shenouda after his installation

Far right: some of the attendees

To the right : President +Peter addressing the AGM



more photos from AGM



Rev Glenn Loughrey speaking



Standing Committee with Fr Shenouda

# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

2 June – 9 June 2019



*The Marian shrine of Annai Velangkanni, in Medan, Indonesia*

**Justice and only justice, you shall pursue**  
(Deuteronomy 16.18-20)

[https://www.ncca.org.au/images/stories/Departments/  
Faith and Unity/Week of Prayer 2019/  
WoPCU 2019 Reflections for the 8 Days.pdf](https://www.ncca.org.au/images/stories/Departments/Faith and Unity/Week of Prayer 2019/WoPCU 2019 Reflections for the 8 Days.pdf)



## Conversations with the Archbishop

### Loneliness: Australia's next health crisis?

An Australian psychological journal last year suggested loneliness could be Australia's next public health crisis. Loneliness is defined as being disconnected from others and seeing one's relationships negatively, so one can be lonely while surrounded by people.

The horrifying rate of youth suicide is partly connected to loneliness.

What can the churches do to help, or what can we all do as individuals? Join Melbourne Anglican Archbishop **Philip Freier** in discussion with **Patrick McGorry**, Professor of Youth Mental Health at Melbourne University, co-founder of headspace and former Australian of the Year, and **Helen Page**, head of Community Aged Care for the Brotherhood of St Laurence. The discussion will be moderated by former ABC host **John Cleary**.

**When:** Wednesday 12 June 2019 at 7.30am (morning please note)

**Where:** Deakin Edge, Federation Square

**Admission is free and bookings are not necessary. All welcome!**

For more information please contact Anglican Media Melbourne at [AnglicanMediaMelbourne@melbourneanglican.org.au](mailto:AnglicanMediaMelbourne@melbourneanglican.org.au)

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## From ETHOS

**Call for papers: 'A Curious Machine': Wesleyan Reflections On The Post-Human Future.** Tenth Australian Centre for Wesleyan Research Conference, 13-15 September, Melbourne. **Papers due Friday 31 May.** For more information see [here](#).

### [WRITE]

The Spring 2019 issue of *Zadok Perspectives* will focus on Australia's Aboriginal Peoples. Please [email](#) Armen Gakavian if you would like to contribute. Preference will be given to Aboriginal authors. Articles not published in *Zadok* will be considered for Engage.Mail.

**Engage Mail** is always on the lookout for contributors. Our aim is to publish a range of views on current issues from a Christian perspective. Please [email](#) Armen Gakavian if you would like to contribute.

## World Council of Churches



### [WCC pays tribute to ecumenist pioneer](#)

On Monday 3 June the WCC hosts a half-day seminar on the legacy of one of ecumenism's leading figures, archbishop Nathan Söderblom, followed by a discussion on today's ecumenical challenges.



### [Hostilities in Gaza 'morally and ethically untenable,' religious leaders state](#)

On 8 May, the WCC, Middle East Council of Churches, and ACT Alliance released a message expressing deep concern over the latest hostilities in the Gaza Strip, describing the present situation as "morally and ethically untenable." Last weekend, the region near the Israel-Gaza border saw the most intense escalation of violence since the 2014 war.



### ["Human peace chain" reflects the wish of the people on Korean Peninsula](#)

On 27 April, some 500,000 people joined hands to form a "human peace chain" along the 500 km long Demilitarized Zone between South and North Korea. They expressed their strong desire for permanent peace in the Korean Peninsula, gathering to celebrate the first anniversary of Panmunjom Declaration and commemorate the centennial of the 1 March Independence Movement.



## Message from the President

### We all want to work together for peace and unity

Peace was shattered on Easter Sunday, 21 April 2019. In Sri Lanka three churches and three luxury hotels in Colombo, Negombo and Batticaloa were targeted in a series of coordinated terrorist suicide bombings.

NCCA President, Bishop Philip Huggins shares his message to Rt Rev. Dhiloraj Canagasabey, Anglican Bishop of Colombo:



....I just read your powerful, honest, courageous reflection on the Easter Sunday massacre.... [Read more »](#)



## Ecumenics Roundtable Canberra

Presented by the Centre for Ecumenical Studies at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C)

**Date:** 10:30 am-4:00 pm 25 June 2019

**Location:** Chambers Pavilion, ACC&C, 15 Blackall Street, Barton ACT

**Special guest speaker:** Rt. Rev'd Dr Geevarghese Coorilos. [Read more »](#)

## Young Adult Formation

### Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI) 2019

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) invites applications for the annual session of the Asian Ecumenical Institute (AEI) – 2019, which will be held from 1 to 30 July, 2019 at the CCA Headquarters in Payap University, Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The theme of AEI 2019 is 'Ecumenical Pilgrimage of Struggle for Peace with Justice in Asia'. [Read more »](#)





## Ration Challenge 2019

### Are you up for the challenge?

[Sign up now](#) for the Ration Challenge, during Refugee Week, Sunday 16 June – Sunday 23 June 2019. You can make a difference by raising vital funds and sharing your experience to raise awareness of the global refugee crisis. [Read more »](#)



## Dignity not Destitution: Changes to Support Services for People Seeking Asylum

The foundational principle of the campaign Dignity NOT Destitution is the belief that **no person lawfully residing in Australia should be forced into destitution through the removal of access to financial and housing supports.**

Up to 12,000 people seeking asylum in Australia may be at risk of losing core services and financial support due to Government changes in the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS). Charities are already struggling to support destitute asylum seekers, but this level of destitution will be unprecedented.

Read about why this is a deep concern for people seeking asylum as well as Churches and Charities. You CAN take action to support.

[How you can help: click here for a list of organisations helping people seeking asylum.](#)  
[Background information on this issue can be found here, from the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce](#)  
[Click here for a downloadable brochure with actions to take.](#)

# Jewish Christian Muslim Association

## Donations

JCMA is a not-for-profit organisation and donations go directly towards delivery of our many events, forums and conferences and to support our workshop programs in primary and secondary schools. As a listed harm prevention charity we have DGR (Deductible Gift Receipt) status. Your donations are tax-deductible (donations over \$2 are tax-deductible). If you would like to make a donation to help support the work of JCMA please go to our website <http://jcma.org.au/donation>.

## JCMA Membership

JCMA is a membership based organisation for Jewish, Christian and Muslim people of faith. If you would like to find out about joining JCMA as a member you can go to our website at <http://jcma.org.au/jcma-membership> or call Ginette Everest on (03) 9287 5590 or email to: [memberships@jcma.org.au](mailto:memberships@jcma.org.au).

## Up-coming Events

### *i. Winter Conference - July 21st and 22nd*

this year the Winter conference is being held at St Paul's Retreat Center,

Wantirna Sth. - for details go to [www.jcma.org.au](http://www.jcma.org.au)

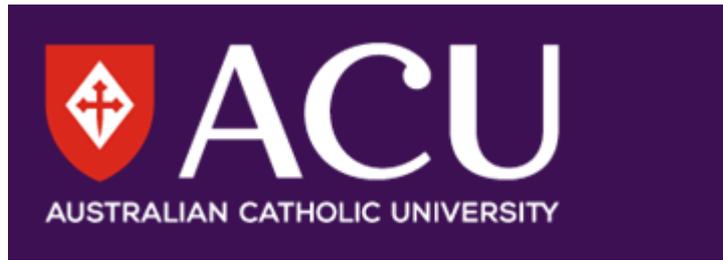
### *ii. Friendship walks -*

JCMA are planning two friendship walks this year :

i. Melbourne walking between Mosque in Nth Carlton, a Church in Carlton and a Synagogue - this will be held in October

ii. Ballarat - again walking between Church, Mosque and Synagogue. This will be held In November

For more information and details on any events see website: [www.jcma.org.au](http://www.jcma.org.au)



## 2019 International Conference on Comparative Theology

**Identities transformed or transgressed?**

**Exploring new frontiers in comparative theology and interreligious learning.**

**Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 July 2019**

**Australian Catholic University**

**Melbourne Campus**

**115 Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, Victoria, Australia**

[\*\*Register now\*\*](#)

***Comparative theology marks acts of faith seeking understanding, which are rooted in a particular faith tradition but which, from that foundation, venture into learning from other faith traditions.***

Professor Francis X Clooney SJ, Harvard University, leading authority on comparative theology

Framed by the concept of religious identities, this conference invites you to explore the latest developments within and challenges to comparative theology and associated practices of interreligious learning.

**[LEARN MORE](#)**

### **Keynote speakers**

- Professor Francis X Clooney SJ, Harvard University
- Professor Catherine Cornille, Boston College
- Professor Marianne Moyaert, VU Amsterdam
- Reverend Dr Diego Sarri Carella, Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI)
- Dr Emmanuel Nathan, Australian Catholic University
- Dr Makoto Sawai, Kyoto University
- Fr Yesudasan Remias, KU Leuven

## From the UCA JIM Unit

### CHAMPIONS FOR CHANGE

Training Opportunity: Champions for Change 2019 Application

#### Overview

*Champions for Change* is a 6-month community organising, advocacy & campaigns fellowship. It is about equipping Refugee Council members, supporters and refugee community members with important advocacy and campaigning skills and set up structures that enable for strong communication, planning and implementation of effective movement-wide campaigns that span the country.

To Apply please follow the link below:

[https://action.refugeecouncil.org.au/c4c\\_application\\_2019](https://action.refugeecouncil.org.au/c4c_application_2019)

### WILLIAM KELLY: JUST ART EXHIBITION

23 April – 10 June, 2019

Centre for Theology and Ministry  
29 College Crescent, Parkville.

Artist, pacifist and social activist, William Kelly OAM presents an exhibition of artworks which provoke reflection on themes of peace and justice in association with the Earth@Peace conference. Some works are accompanied by poems written in response to an artwork. Poets included are Anne Elvey, Alex Skovron, Andy Jackson, Susan Fealy, Bella Li.



Image: William Kelly, *Francis in Australia*, limited ed. 12

## **Pax Christi Victoria Inc.**

*International Christian Peace Movement*

You are invited to the June Agape

**Sunday June 16th 12.30 for 1.00 pm**  
**BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE FOR LUNCH**

**Kildara Centre,**  
**Rear 41 Stanhope Street Malvern**

# **Justice for the Philippines**



## **PATRICIA FOX, SND**

Patricia is a members of the Sisters of Sion in Victoria, who has been a missionary in the Philippines for the past 27 years, advocating land reform, culturally sensitive education of indigenous peoples, decent jobs and housing for the urban poor, freedom of political prisoners, and justice for the victims of extrajudicial killings. More recently, she has been expelled from the Philippines by President Duterte.

**We welcome her to our June Agape**

### **FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT:**

RITA: Phone 9379 3889

Mob 0448 701 877

CATRIONA: Phone 9509 7906

Mob 0419 109 830

## From JIM

### Racism and Health

Thursday 13 June 2019, 6.15pm-7.15pm

[The Wheeler Centre](#)

[Book your tickets](#)

In 2017, the Victorian Government released a report on the impact of racism on the health of people who live in the state. The study – which included interviews with more than 33,000 Victorians – confirmed what many studies around the world had already concluded: racism is literally bad for your health. In this conversation, we'll look at how and why racism impacts minds and bodies – discussing internalised prejudice, shortcomings in the training and recruitment of medical professionals and institutionalised discrimination in the healthcare system.

Our panellists will discuss the unique and historical impacts of racism on Indigenous Australians and the strategies for addressing these specific challenges. They'll also talk through racial discrimination more broadly, as it affects non-English speaking Australians and Australians from non-European backgrounds. What are the barriers to progress and how can we do better?

<https://www.wheelercentre.com/events/racism-and-health>

### HELP ASYLUM SEEKERS! BACK YOUR NEIGHBOUR CAMPAIGN

The Back Your Neighbour campaign is run by the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum, a group of Australian Councils who are speaking out against Federal Government cuts to the Status Resolution Support Services (SRSS) program leaving thousands of asylum seeker families living in Australia destitute and homeless. For more information about the Taskforce, click [HERE](#)

The objectives of the Back Your Neighbour campaign are to:

1. Change (reverse or mitigate) the Federal Government's current policy on SRSS support for people seeking asylum in the community
2. Increase humanitarian support from the Victorian Government
3. Support the Federal Opposition to maintain its new position supporting people seeking asylum in the community during the election period and, if elected, into government.

Read more about the campaign at this link: <http://backyourneighbour.com.au/about/>



# Peace Education Symposium

## Teaching the Theology and Practice of nonviolence

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019**  
**Melbourne**

*“To reach peace, teach peace”*  
*Pope John Paul II (1<sup>st</sup> Jan 1979)*

*“To be true followers of Jesus today also includes embracing his teaching about nonviolence”*  
*Pope Francis (1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2017)*

*“Nonviolence is the answer to the crucial political and moral questions of our time: the need for [humanity] to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence”*  
*Martin Luther King Jr.*

### **Purpose of the Gathering**

*“promote and provide gospel-based Peace and Nonviolence resources to all Christian educational systems and secondary schools in Australia and New Zealand by 2021”*

At this gathering participants will be invited to...

- learn about peace and nonviolence education
- reflect on how the Gospel inspires the work for nonviolence
- network with other educators/teachers
- explore and share resources and experiences to assist with embedding nonviolence principles in curriculum and practice
- contribute to the overall purpose described above

### **Background**

During 2018 a group of keen educators and peace-practitioners from Australia and New Zealand, mainly from the Anglican and Catholic traditions, met to discuss, develop resources and teach the ‘theology and practice of peace and nonviolence’ in Christian schools. This included the development of a pilot senior-school Religious Education unit by the Anglican Schools Commission (WA) and the incorporation of nonviolence principles, and content, in a number of Catholic education systems and schools.

The feedback from students and staff has been very positive, with teachers observing the helpful holistic nature of the material, which can engage students at intellectual/theological, spiritual/prayerful, and practical (nonviolent peacemaking) levels.

## The Gathering

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August (9am – 4.30pm)** – a professional learning day to...

- explore the theological principles and Gospel-based practices that underpin the teaching of nonviolence and peace
- identify and reflect on connections between the inner (life) and the outer (practices) of nonviolence
- learn a range of introductory skills in nonviolent conflict transformation
- consider how to integrate peace education within their teaching roles

This day can be missed if a participant did it on another occasion. This day can also be done as a 'stand-alone' for teachers who would like to know more about Jesus and Nonviolence, but who cannot attend the full three-day gathering.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August (9am – 4.30pm)** – a day of sharing ideas, resources and stories from teachers/practitioners who have been experimenting with the curriculum resources during 2018. This is likely to include content/resource sharing on:

- the Theology of Nonviolence, particularly focussing on the work of Rene Girard and his other Christian interpreters
- the Practice of Prayer as a way of supporting nonviolent peace-making
- stories about how students are beginning to engage in practical ways

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August (9am to 2pm)** – A self-organising Open Space day for participants to engage with what has been emerging during the preceding two days, share resources, and plan practical next steps in their respective contexts.

### Location:

St Joseph's Conference Centre, Edmund Rice Education Australia, Richmond (Melbourne)

### Expressions of interest

The event will be formally advertised early in 2019 with more details on costs. In the meantime, if you would like to be included on the mailing list, please Michael Wood, [spacemaker62@gmail.com](mailto:spacemaker62@gmail.com).  
Phone: 0435 065326

**Gathering sponsored by:**

**Edmund Rice Education Australia  
Catholic Education South Australia  
The Anglican Schools Commission (Inc.)  
Pace e Bene (Australia)**

## UCA CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY – MAY /June UPDATE

Stories of Childhood – Playgroup/Pre-school Ministry Training Day

Saturday June 22

Parkville

The annual [Stories of Childhood Playgroup/Pre-school Training Day](#), is now taking place in **Parkville** on **Saturday June 22**, is a great opportunity for **any** church engaged in ministry with young families. For ministers, pastors, leaders and team members involved in activities such as Playgroup, pre-school music programs and Sunday morning activities, **Stories of Childhood** will assist **you and your church** in connecting more deeply with the children and their carers you are called to serve. Excellent electives **are** on offer across the day, with a particular focus on deepening conversations. Whether you and your leaders already have great listening and conversational skills or not, I'm confident you will leave this day feeling better equipped for missional conversations.

More information and Registration: [Stories of Childhood 2019](#) (flyer [available here](#))

### Playgroup/Pre-school Resources (thanks, Ruth)

[Rainy Day Play](#)

[Just Playgroup](#)

[Prayer and Playgroup](#)

[Teddy Bears picnic idea](#)

[Welcoming baptismal families](#)

Nb. A FREE [Communities of Practice](#) opportunity for [CPN](#) members.

### Ministries Across Generations (thanks, Olivia)

[On-line resources](#)

[Faith formation for families](#)

[Becoming intergenerational](#)

[Children, worship and wonder](#)

[Responding to tough situations](#)

[Everyday family faith ideas](#)

[How to model hospitality](#)

[Growing With Parenting \(Fuller\)](#)

[D6 Podcasts](#)

### Via CRCNA (thanks, Karen)

[Ultimate collection of family faith formation resources](#)  
[Eight ideas for intergenerational small groups](#)  
[Ten ways to help your family grow faith](#)

### Some Podcasts (thanks, Bradon)

[Work Experience \(Bradon French\)](#) or via [Work Experience Bible Project](#)

[The Liturgists](#)

### Via Fuller (thanks, Jake)

[Kids and technology](#)

[The power of talk in a digital age](#)

[Raising kids in a screen saturated world](#)

[How young is too young for digital media?](#)

[Three ways to get talking with parents about technology](#)

### GOT, Avengers & Faith Formation

[Who is responsible for children's faith formation?](#)

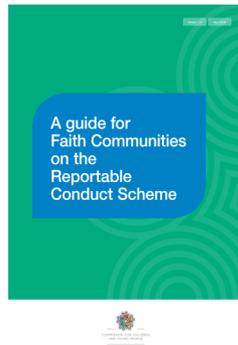
[Think Christian \(GOT, Avengers & more\)](#)

[Faith formation in a secular age](#)

[The liturgy is for little ones](#)

[Godly Play \(The Circle\)](#)

# The Commission for Children and Young People



Please click on the image above for a downloadable pdf document of the Reportable Conduct Scheme

*The Victorian Council of Churches through its Executive Officer, Rev Ian Smith, played a major role in the development, writing and delivery of this document. The VCC recommends all churches and church agencies familiarise themselves with their obligations under the Legislation.*

Training portal at [www.childsafestandards.org.au](http://www.childsafestandards.org.au)

Downloadable resource kit available on website

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## From Intergen:

### Highlighted National Event

Jun 11-14 [Leaders to Go](#)

Australia's premier conference for leaders of leaders of ministry with children and their families! Please save the dates and keep an eye out for more info.

**Featuring:** Facilitated in-put, Workshops, Market place and expo, live-in community, individual retreat, creativity, small groups, worship and reflection, prayer and networking and more!

**Venue:** The Tops Conference Centre, Stanwell Tops, NSW

**Dates:** 11-14 June 2019

**Times:** 2.30pm Tuesday – 1.30pm Friday

**Details:** [leaderstogo.org.au](http://leaderstogo.org.au)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/leaderstogoconference/>

### Great Opportunities for Families/Households

**Children & Families Ministry: Core Issues – Jul 11-13, 15-17**

**PARKVILLE**

Offered in **Parkville** for the **FIRST** time, this University of Divinity [intensive unit \(Jul 11-13, 15-17\)](#) is an excellent professional development opportunity for ministers, pastors, chaplains *and* those employed or deeply engaged in ministry with children and their families. Areas explored include the theological, developmental and methodological resources for contextual children and families ministries across the spectrum of Australian church based, community based and para-church expressions. Addressing the theology, spirituality and sociology of the child in relation to family, church, faith, culture, technology, history and philosophical discourse, the unit develops critical skills for evaluating and designing robust, contextual processes for discipleship, pastoral care, safe practice, mission and leadership with families. For more information e-mail [chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au](mailto:chris.barnett@ctm.uca.edu.au) or [erlinda.loverseed@pilgrim.edu.au](mailto:erlinda.loverseed@pilgrim.edu.au).

# Child Safe Standards

## A Reminder

As of January 1st 2017 the Victorian Child Safe Standards became mandatory for all Churches and Faith organisations.

For more details visit:

[www.childsafestandards.org.au](http://www.childsafestandards.org.au)

How to implement the Victorian Child Safe Standards in your faith community that come into place on 1 January 2017.

The Victorian Council of Churches in partnership with the National Council of Churches in Australia – Safe Church Program has collaborated together to provide a toolkit and Training Portal to ensure that all Faith Communities in Victoria have the opportunity to ensure that they are prepared to implement the Child Safe Standards in their faith community.

We are pleased to partner with the Commission for Children and Young People ([www.ccyp.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au)) in assisting faith based organisations to meet the Child Safe Standards by providing a range of faith-generic resources, tools and supports.

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## From Commission for Children and Young People



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE

### Child Safe Standards and Reportable Conduct Scheme Information Sessions

Certain early years providers are coming into scope for the Reportable Conduct Scheme from 1 January 2019. To register your interest for an **Early Years Reportable Conduct Scheme Information Session**, please complete the [expression of interest form](#).

To find out about new information sessions, you can [subscribe for updates](#) or [contact us](#)

You can also find more information on the Commission's website: [www.ccyp.vic.gov.au](http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au)

To download a copy of 'A Guide for Creating a Child Safe Organisation' to assist organisations to create a culture of child safety, [click here](#).

If you need an interpreter, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 13 14 50 and ask them to contact the Commission for Children and Young People on 03 8601 5281.

Victorian Council of Churches  
President: Rev Fr Shenouda  
Boutros  
Executive Officer: Rev Ian  
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ABN 51 350 238 724

The Victorian Council of Churches is a fellowship of churches which confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Saviour according to the Scriptures and seek to fulfil together their common calling to the glory of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

\*\*\* If you have an event that you want others to know about then contact at [vcc@vcc.org.au](mailto:vcc@vcc.org.au) excluding January we plan to publish a Council News each month \*\*\*

Council News is the official newsletter of the Victorian Council of Churches

Editor Rev. Ian Smith Executive Officer

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We're on the web!  
[www.vcc.org.au](http://www.vcc.org.au)



**Victorian**  
Council of Churches

Contact us: web. [www.vcc.org.au](http://www.vcc.org.au)

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Facebook [www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches/](http://www.facebook.com/viccouncilchurches/)