

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

1. PURPOSE

- The purpose of this policy is for Anglican Care Waiapu (ACW) to provide a framework for staff members and volunteers to:
 - Ensure the needs, rights, safety, and wellbeing of children are paramount.
 - Prevent or minimise the risk of abuse of children while they are engaging with all ACW services and programmes.
 - Report any suspicion of any form of abuse or ill-treatment.
 - Respond to actual or suspected incidents of abuse, complaints, allegations, concerns, or disclosure of abuse or self-harm.
 - Keep the organisation safe.
 - Establish what action is required when allegations are made against ACW staff members and volunteers.
 - Adhere to safe working practices.

2. APPLICATION

- This policy covers all staff members and volunteers of ACW who have direct or indirect contact with children. This includes staff members and volunteers employed directly by ACW, any contracted personnel providing support services to families, and those providing support services to staff members and volunteers. It also includes professionals contracted or invited to provide services to children in the care of ACW and workers whose work is unpaid as part of an educational or vocational training course.

3. DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACW	Anglican Care Waiapu
Child	Someone under the age of 18.
Child Abuse	Child abuse is the harming, whether physically, emotionally, or sexually, ill treatment, abuse, neglect, or deprivation of any child or young person (Oranga Tamariki Act 1989). Child abuse may occur within religious, spiritual, ministerial, pastoral, or administrative contexts.
Child Protection (CP)	An activity or initiative for the purpose of preventing or responding to a specific incident or incidents of child abuse.
CPC	Child Protection Committee
Children’s worker	A person who works in or provides a regulated service (as defined in the Children’s Act 2014) that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May or does involve regular contact and/or overnight contact with a child or children (other than children of co-workers); and • Takes place without a parent or guardian of the child, or of each child, being present.
Contact	Physical or verbal communication or any communication through any electronic medium, including writing or visual images.

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Contracted workers	Workers who are contracted to provide services to children or hold some form of responsibility for them, such as nurses, hearing technicians, and speech-language specialists.
Core worker	A children’s worker whose work in or providing a regulated service requires or allows that, when the person is present with a child or children in the course of that work, the person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the only children’s worker present; or • Is the children’s worker who has primary responsibility for, or authority over, the child or children present.
Cumulative harm	Cumulative harm is the compounded experiences of multiple episodes of abuse or ‘layers’ of neglect. The unremitting impact on the child can be profound and exponential, covering multiple dimensions of the child’s life.
Designated Child Protection Person (DCPP)	There is one DCPP who provides guidance to the organisation on child protection concerns. The DCPP may instruct staff members to take certain actions in the best interests of the child, including making reports of concern to Oranga Tamariki.
Imminent danger/harm	The imminent threat of death or serious physical and/or emotional harm.
Growing Through Grief (GTG)	A Waiapu service offering programmes for children, young people, and adults who are experiencing change, loss, and grief in their lives.
Kaihautū	The Kaihautū is the Chief Executive Officer of Anglican Care Waiapu.
Manaakitanga	The process of showing respect, generosity, and care for others.
Manager	The direct reporting line manager of the staff member concerned, generally the service manager for ACW staff.
Non-core worker	A children’s worker who has regular, but limited, contact with children and is not a core worker.
Oranga Tamariki	The Government’s children’s ministry.
Police check	The collection of information held by the Police about a person, including information held by the Ministry of Justice and accessed by the Police in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020, in respect of that person’s criminal convictions. The term “Police Vetting” is also applicable as appropriate to overseas Police and criminal history checks when required.
Regular contact	The person has contact (other than merely incidental contact) with a child or children overnight, or at least once a week, or on at least four days each month. It does not matter whether the regular or overnight contact is with the same or a different child or children each time.
Safety checks	The required checks as set out in ACW Guidelines on ‘Safety Checking’ in accordance with the Children’s Act 2014.
Social services	The services provided by ACW include the delivery of social work, counselling, community-based programmes, mentoring, early childhood education, day programmes for the elderly, Growing Through Grief services, and any programmes involving children.
Staff member	A person working for ACW, including an employee, volunteer, contractor, consultant, student, or associate, whether working on a full-time, part-time, casual, or temporary basis.

Visitor	A person who temporarily visits an ACW service or programme, for example, a parent, parent helper, or member of the clergy. A visitor does not have any responsibility for clients.
Volunteer	A person who freely offers their time to support ACW's work, whether working on a full-time, part-time, casual, or temporary basis.
Whanaungatanga	Relationship, kinship, sense of family connection – a relationship through shared experiences and working together, which provides people with a sense of belonging. It develops as a result of kinship rights and obligations, which also serve to strengthen each member of the kin group. It also extends to others to whom one develops a close familial, friendship or reciprocal relationship.

4. DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE TYPES

- 4.1 **“Emotional abuse”** is when a child’s emotional, psychological, or social well-being and sense of worth is continually battered, and can result in impaired psychological, social, intellectual and/or emotional functioning and development of a child or young person.
- 4.2 **“Family violence”** is violence inflicted by any person against another person with whom they are or have been in a family or whānau relationship.
- **“Intimate partner violence”** is a subset of family violence that occurs between current or former partners in an intimate relationship.
 - **“Coercive control”** is a subset of family violence that is a deliberate, strategic pattern of behaviour used to dominate, exploit and control another person. It aims to limit a person’s (adult or child) autonomy, self-determination and liberty.
- 4.3 **“Neglect”** is any act or omission that results in impaired physical functioning, injury, and/or development of a child or young person.
- 4.4 **“Physical abuse”** is a non-accidental act on a child that results in physical harm.
- **“Physical restraint”** is a subset of physical abuse, using physical force to prevent, restrict, or subdue the movement of a child’s body or part of the child’s body.
- 4.5 **“Sexual abuse”** is any act or acts that result in the sexual exploitation of a child or young person, whether consensual or not.
- 4.6 **“Spiritual abuse”**, including religious or cultural abuse, is the misuse of spiritual or religious beliefs to control, intimidate or harm a child. This may involve preventing a child from practising their own faith or cultural traditions, belittling their beliefs or using religion to justify fear and punishment. Such actions undermine a child's identity and wellbeing and are a serious breach of their rights.

5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 5.1 ACW recognises that all persons are created in the image of God. **Jesus himself showed a special care and concern for children and those who are vulnerable.**
- 5.2 ACW is committed to the wellbeing of children and young people and seeks to safeguard them from harm or abuse.
- 5.3 ACW has a duty of care to the children to whom it provides services. Failure to report a care and protection concern about a child is a breach of that child’s human rights.
- 5.4 ACW is committed to working in partnership with families/whānau, their children, and the community. This will be done using whanaungatanga and manaakitanga to produce the best possible outcomes for the child and to work towards continuous improvement in child protection practices.

- 5.5 The safety and wellbeing of children is our primary concern, with the child at the centre of all decision-making.
- 5.6 ACW is committed to acting without fear or hesitation when there is abuse disclosed and/or suspected.
- 5.7 ACW recognises the culture of the family/whānau, its importance and the rights of family/whānau to participate in decision-making about their children.
- 5.8 ACW is committed to open and transparent relationships with service users, including being willing to share concerns about child safety issues with family/whānau, unless this would result in an escalation of risk to the child or children and/or staff members and volunteers.
- 5.9 ACW is committed to promoting a culture where staff members and volunteers are confident that they can constructively challenge poor practice and raise issues and concerns without fear of reprisal.
- 5.10 All services or programmes provided by ACW adhere to the principles of partnership, protection, participation, and the rights and responsibilities accorded by Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

6. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 ACW will ensure that:

- Staff members and volunteers are carefully recruited and selected in accordance with the principles of this policy.
- Staff members and volunteers receive child protection training tailored to their specific roles and responsibilities.
- Staff members and volunteers are aware of and understand the Child Protection Policy and procedures, and guidelines and have provided management with a signed commitment to follow these.
- Within ACW services and programmes, children will not have access to objectionable electronic or non-electronic material.

6.2 Board and Kaihautū

Overall responsibility for this policy rests with the Board and Kaihautū. This includes:

- Ensuring the needs and rights of children come first, meaning the safety and wellbeing of each child is paramount.
- Ensuring that the Child Protection Policy is effectively implemented throughout ACW.
- Ensuring that all staff members and volunteers are aware of, and have access to, full copies of the procedures for reporting child abuse.
- Ensuring a Designated Child Protection Person is appointed.

6.3 Child Protection Committee (CPC)

The Child Protection Committee (CPC) is appointed by the Kaihautū and comprises at least two representatives from ACW's services, the designated child protection person, and other experts as required.

The CPC provides support to the Kaihautū by:

- Providing guidance to ACW management to ensure systems are in place to recruit and employ all staff members and volunteers in accordance with the safe checking requirements identified in the Children's Act 2014.
- Ensuring, through monitoring, that Child Protection training is completed by all staff members and that volunteers receive training appropriate to their role.

- Reviewing the CPP annually, following changes to relevant legislation, and suggesting amendments as required.
- Providing general child protection-related advice and support to the Kaihautū to improve the organisation's approach to child protection matters.
- Monitoring child protection issues, including rates of reports of concern, to identify trends or issues that could be changed or improved by an appropriate organisational response.
- Ensuring that the Designated Child Protection Person is well supported.

6.4 Designated Child Protection Person (DCPP)

The Kaihautū will appoint one DCPP for the organisation. A deputy DCPP will be assigned to cover this role when absent for a period. A position description shall be provided for this role.

The DCCP is not permitted or mandated to investigate allegations. The DCPP will:

- Be readily available to staff members and volunteers for consultation and advice, and where required, give instruction regarding child protection concerns.
- Support staff members and volunteers to follow our organisational processes regarding suspected abuse or self-harm.
- Remain informed of current legislative requirements and advise all staff members and volunteers regarding appropriate actions and responses.
- Ensure contact details for Oranga Tamariki and Police offices are maintained.
- Ensure the needs and rights of children come first, meaning the safety and wellbeing of each child is paramount.
- Be provided with information when there is a suggested potential or actual risk of harm to a child, irrespective of whether the alleged abuse is current, past, or likely to occur.
- Consult with the Kaihautū and Oranga Tamariki as to how to respond to a concern where advice is required.
- Instruct the manager or programme coordinator to make Reports of Concern where required and review all Reports of Concern to ensure the standard of reporting is adequate.
- Provide advice about informing parents and caregivers when ACW makes a Report of Concern to Oranga Tamariki. However, this must be done with the consideration of safety for the child, staff, volunteers, and other family members. In keeping with the principle of partnership, the DCPP will consult with Oranga Tamariki regarding who should inform those with parental responsibility about allegations.
- Ensure and maintain clear, confidential, detailed, and dated records on child protection cases. These must contain all available information relating to the cause for concern and any subsequent action taken, including when it has been decided not to pass a referral to Oranga Tamariki or Police. These records are essential to verify that the process has been thorough and fair, and all records will be made available for self-audit and inspection purposes.
- Report any progress on all investigations to all parties concerned as necessary and appropriate.
- Ensure that child protection procedures are carried out when concerns are raised about ACW staff and volunteers or staff and volunteers from another organisation. If, in consultation with Oranga Tamariki and the Kaihautū, it is deemed that a Report of Concern is necessary, then this will be carried out irrespective of how the other organisation views the concerns.
- Provide reporting to Child Protection Committee meetings and summary reporting to the Board annually.
- Assign a temporary DCPP to step in when absent from work, ensuring managers are notified.

6.5 Centre and Service Managers, and GTG Team Leaders and Coordinators

These roles will:

- Ensure all child protection concerns arising in their centre, service, or programme are raised with the DCPD immediately.
- Ensure access to the Child Protection Policy is made available on site for staff members and the public, including clients. Hard copies of the Child Protection Policy must be made available at ACW's Waiapu Kids early childhood centres to meet ECE licensing criteria.
- Ensure all staff members and volunteers who require child protection training are provided with access to the required resources, and maintain a record of the training undertaken.
- Ensure all staff members and volunteers are up to date with the Child Protection Policy and the process to follow when there are care and protection concerns.
- Ensure the required recruiting policies and processes for all staff members and volunteers are followed, including police or Ministry of Justice vetting.
- Support staff members and volunteers to follow the child protection processes when there is a care and protection concern.
- Ensure own manager is aware of any child protection concern that has been raised with the DCPD.
- Contact external agencies and work with the staff member or volunteer who has identified the concern to make a Report of Concern if appropriate, working with the DCPD to ensure the correct procedure is followed.
- Ensure visitors and contractors are supervised and not left alone with children.
- Work in co-operation with the parents and caregivers, unless this compromises the safety of the child, the staff member, volunteer, or any other child.

6.6 All Staff Members and Volunteers

These roles will:

- Be aware of, and alert to, potential indicators of abuse or neglect.
- Be aware of the risk that potential abusers pose to children.
- Raise all child protection concerns to their manager immediately.
- Work with their manager and the DCPD, to record a factual account of any concerns they have, or that are brought to their attention, on the Child Protection/Safety Concern Form or the relevant Education Child Concerns Register, whichever is appropriate.
- Work with the manager and DCPD to complete a Report of Concern, if appropriate.

6.7 Visitors

- All visitors to ACW services and programmes, including parent helpers, must be supervised.

6.8 External Providers

- Contracted workers who will be providing services to children or hold some form of responsibility for them will be required to sign the ACW Child Protection Policy. For example, nurses who administer before-school checks, hearing technicians, and speech and language specialists.
- The contracted provider holds a safety responsibility to check their staff. It is the responsibility of ACW services and programmes to gain assurance from the contracted provider that this safety check has been completed prior to beginning their contracted service. This confirmation must be received in writing.
- All contractors who regularly work at ECE centres during hours of operation will be police checked by ACW and be required to sign the ACW Child Protection Policy.

- Contracted service providers with irregular workers who will not be providing services to children or holding any responsibility for them are not required to be police-checked, but it is the manager's responsibility to ensure they are supervised at all times and not left alone with children.

7. TRAINING

- 7.1 The provision of appropriate training will ensure staff members and volunteers understand their responsibilities that apply to protecting children. It will also ensure any responses to suspected or actual abuse or neglect are appropriate and in accordance with ACW procedures. Training requirements will be reviewed at least annually, and changes may be made to requirements as a result.
- 7.2 There are different levels of training mandated for Waiapu Anglican Social Services Trust Board (WASSTB) board members, ACW staff members and volunteers. See HRFOR019 Child Protection Training Matrix.

8. SAFE RECRUITMENT

- 8.1 All appointments (permanent, fixed term, student, contractor, casual or volunteer) to positions that have direct and/or regular contact with children or young people will be conditional on safety checks, as outlined in ACW recruitment procedures, including a police vet.

9. SHARING OF INFORMATION

- 9.1 ACW shall share information with appropriate agencies (such as health and education providers or other agencies involved with the child's life) if sharing that information will protect or improve the safety, health, or wellbeing of a child. Refer to the GOVPRO006 Sharing Confidential Information Procedure.

10. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND INTERNAL POLICIES

- 10.1 The Child Protection Policy relates to the following legislation:

- Employment Relations Act 2000
- Human Rights Act 1993
- Privacy Act 2020
- Health Act 1956
- Children's Act 2014
- Children's (Requirements for Safety Checks of Children's Workers) Regulations 2015
- Oranga Tamariki Act 1989
- Crimes Act 1961
- Family Violence Act 2018
- Care of Children Act 2004
- ECE regulations and licensing criteria

- 10.2 The Child Protection Policy is to be used in conjunction with the following existing ACW policies, procedures or guidance documents:

- ECEPOL004 Positive Guidance Policy
- ECEPRO033 ECE Register of Child Concern Procedure
- GENPOL012 Privacy Policy
- GTGPRO002 GTG Volunteer Selection and Onboarding Procedure
- GTGTEM001 Interview Questions Template – GTG Companion
- GTGTEM002 GTG Companion Reference Check

- GTGTEM003 GTG Companion Screening and Onboarding Checklist
- GOVFOR002 ACW Child Protection/Safety Concern Form
- GOVFOR003 Report of Concern to Oranga Tamariki
- GOVFOR009 ACW Child Concern Form – Notes for School
- GOVGUI002 Identifying Child Abuse Guidelines
- GOVPRO004 Managing Child Abuse Concern Procedure
- GOVPRO006 Sharing Confidential Information Procedure
- GOVPRO007 Managing Child Abuse - Staff and Volunteers Working at a School Facility
- GOVPRO008 Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers Procedure
- HRFOR009 Criminal History Results Risk Assessment Form
- HRFOR019 Child Protection Training Matrix
- HRFOR025 Children’s Worker Risk Assessment Form – Existing Employee
- HRFOR026 Children’s Worker Risk Assessment Form – New Worker
- HRPOL003 Recruitment Policy
- HRPOL004 Criminal Vetting Policy
- HRPOL011 Volunteer Policy
- HRPOL018 Children’s Workers Safety Checking Policy
- HRPRO002 Criminal Vetting Procedure
- HRPRO017 Interview and Shortlist Candidate Selection Procedure
- HRTEM005 Reference Check Template Children’s Worker
- HRTEM015 Interview Questions - ECE Centre Manager
- HRTEM016 Interview Questions - ECE Teacher
- HRTEM017 Interview Questions - ECE Teaching Assistant
- HSPOL100 Health and Safety Policy