

From: Shane & Inge McNeil <inge.mcneil@icloud.com>
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To: Policy MailIn
Subject: Child Protection Laws

Categories: Purple Category

Hi.

I just saw the invite for comment regarding Child Protection Laws. I'd like to make a brief comment if I may.

The main thing I would like to see is for those in leadership positions within religious organisations to be classed as mandatory reporters. Including local ministers, right up to the national leadership. I also think it would be good if the national leadership be held accountable for providing adequate training to their local representatives. Based on my experience, local church leaders are nowhere near qualified or trained well enough to handle allegations of abuse.

It would also be good if organisations, including churches, were motivated to reach a minimum standard in providing a child safe environment. Maybe a rating system or non compulsory certification system that would allow organisations who reached a certain minimum standard to be able to advertise that fact and thus draw attention to those organisations that are not certified.

Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Shane McNeil