



## Presbyterian Church of Victoria Safe Church Unit

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### Safe Church Compliance Requirements for Supply Preachers

In response to requests from presbyteries and ministers the Safe Church Unit (SCU) advises the Church of the following compliance requirements for Supply Preachers (men who fill the pulpit on any Sunday) within the denomination. These requirements are part of the implementation of Safe Church PCV.

*Please contact SCU with any enquiries in relation to these requirements.*

#### Supply Preachers are required to have:

- 1) A current Victorian Working With Children Check (WWCC) registered with the Department of Justice and with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria – 156 Collins Street Melbourne as an organisation attached to their Check.
- 2) Completed Safe Church training either with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) or with another denomination or Christian organisation.

#### FAQs

*Are the 2 requirements only required of those who preach, or is 'filling the pulpit' meant to cover wider scenarios?*

'Filling the pulpit' means the activity of being the leader of worship and preaching for the day, because in that leading and in the preaching he carries authority and is acting in that event as a person of authority.

*Does it, for example, include a member of the congregation who might be asked share their salvation testimony, and who does so in place of the sermon on that occasion?*

No.

*Does it include a missionary speaking at length in a service while on deputation?*

No.

*What about the case of a preacher from another denomination, who has a WWCC, but has not done the PCV's own Safe Church training? Is he required to do the PCV program before he can fill the pulpit?*

If he is a preacher from another denomination and holds a current WWCC, then, due to the external requirements for all organisations with children in Victoria, it is a fair assumption that he has been through authorised Safe Church training with that other denomination and is compliant with that church's standards. If the denomination is Baptist, UCA, Anglican (and some others – please contact SCU to confirm), the training aligns with the Safe Church PCV standards. Request the preacher to provide evidence of completing training - denominations issue certificates of completion on request as evidence of this (including SCU).

*What about a member of a congregation who leads the service that morning, including reading the Bible, leading the singing and overseeing the times of prayer and intercession, but who does not preach the sermon? Although not having preached the 20 minute sermon, his portion of the service may have accounted for the majority of the service - 40 minutes plus.*

We are only referring to the person who leads the worship and preaches or preaches only, as he stands in the position of authority for that day.

*How can church leaders practically verify a guest preacher has a WWCC and has completed Safe Church training?*

Ask him. Alternatively, contact SCU to verify.

*Do Supply Preachers register their WWCC as a 'Volunteer' or an 'Employee' of the PCV?*

Supply Preachers in the PCV register as a 'Volunteer' with the Church. Any enquiries relating to this are to be directed to the SCU.

**As a courtesy please provide copies of the PCV Safe Church Policy and Code of Conduct to Supply Preachers for their information and understanding of the Church's position concerning abuse prevention and response - thank you**

*These requirements are also available at [www.safechurchpcv.org.au/resources](http://www.safechurchpcv.org.au/resources)*