

Obj File Ref: A3818148

Ms Anne Hywood  
General Secretary  
Anglican Church of Australia  
Suite 4, Level 5  
189 Kent Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Hywood

I write in response your letter to the Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP, Premier of NSW calling for the consideration of an age appropriate Working with Children Check (WWCC) scheme for under 18 year olds. Your correspondence has been referred to me as I am an independent statutory authority with responsibility for the NSW WWCC scheme. My office has attempted to contact you unsuccessfully to better understand the background to the request from the General Synod discussions.

The aim of the WWCC scheme is to prevent known perpetrators of sexual and violent abuse against children from entering into and undertaking child- related work. Children and young people in employment are exempted from the requirements of the scheme in NSW. The evidence tells us that their offending is usually against other children and young people. It constitutes peer on peer offending which has a different power dynamic. It does not indicate that the child, once an adult, will present a risk to children.

The WWCC is a very important tool in keeping children safe when used with other child safe strategies. It should not be solely relied on to manage risks in the workplace.

I would be very happy to discuss this issue further and provide additional support to the Anglican Church of Australia by way of training tailored to the range of activities that the Church undertakes. If you would like to discuss this further please feel free to contact Lisa Purves, Manager Child Safe Organisations on (02) 9286 7204 or [Lisa.Purves@Kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Lisa.Purves@Kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**Janet Schorer**  
**Children's Guardian**  
7 February 2018