

A CHILDREN'S CHARTER FOR THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

Nurture of the Child

Children are a heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is a gift. - Psalm 127:4

The Church is called:

- to receive, nurture and treasure each child as a gift from God
- to acknowledge and support the role of parents as primary nurturers of children.
- to proclaim the Gospel to children in ways that empower them to receive and respond to God's love
- to give high priority to the quality of planning for children and the preparation and support of those who minister with them
- to include children, in fulfilment of the Baptismal Covenant, as members and full participants in the worshipping community at the Lord's Table and in the Church's common life of prayer, witness and service

Ministry to the Child

Then Jesus took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them and blessed them - Mark 10:16

The Church is called:

- to love, shelter protect and defend children within its own community and in the world, especially those who are abused, neglected or in danger
- to nurture and support families in caring for their children, acting in their children's best interest, and recognising and fostering their children's spirituality and unique gifts
- to embrace children who seek Christian nurture independently of their parents' participation in the church
- to advocate for the integrity of childhood and the dignity of all children at every level of our religious, social, political, educational and economic structures

Ministry of the Child

A little child shall lead them - Isaiah 11:6

The Church is called:

- to receive children's unique gifts as signs of the kingdom of God
- to value children's ministry within their own family
- to foster community beyond the family unit, in which children, youth and adults know each other by name, minister to each other, and are partners together in serving Christ in the world
- to appreciate children's abilities and readiness to represent Christ and his church, to witness to him wherever they may be, and according to gifts given them, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world, and to take their place in the life, worship, and decision-making of the church

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