

CHURCH MUSICIANS

Are Category 4 Church Workers



Anglican Diocese of
Canberra & Goulburn

Across the different liturgical threads that make up the Anglican Church, music plays an important role in helping us to sing; in giving us times of contemplation; in accompanying the words of the liturgy; in matching or even shaping our emotions. To be a musician (be it an organist, a chorister, a drummer, or a singer) is to be placed in a position of trust in our churches. People see anyone placed at the front of the church, or given a formal role in the church community as the church platforming that person, and saying this is someone we put trust in.

It is important to ensure that musicians are trained and cleared to ensure that we are appropriately safeguarding our communities and fulfilling our duty of care to our volunteers.

They require:

- Safe Ministry Declaration
- Interview and Endorsement
- Safe Ministry Module 1
- This information needs to be recorded and maintained in each worker's Safe Ministry Information System (SMIS) account.

Should children or youths be part of the music group, one of the Adults leading the team needs to be appointed coordinator and will be a Category 3a volunteer, while the other musicians may still be Category 4.

The Category 3a Coordinator will need:

- Working With Children Check (NSW)/Working with Vulnerable People Check (ACT)
- Safe Ministry Questionnaire (Lay Volunteers)
- Interview and Endorsement
- Referee Checks
- National Register Check (carried out by the Safe Ministry Unit)
- Safe Ministry Units 1, 2, and 3.
- This information needs to be recorded and maintained in each worker's Safe Ministry Information System (SMIS) account.

It is important to remember for musicians, as with other volunteers that the Appendix to the Safe Ministry Protocol (approved by Bishop in Council June 2023) states that:

It is a requirement that applicants for Lay Church Worker positions will be a committed church member, and in ordinary circumstances will have been involved in a Ministry Unit for a period of not less than three months prior to commencement of screening.

This three-month period is to allow newcomers to test the waters in a new church, to confirm that this is indeed a community they wish to be a part of, and for the church to observe and get to know the person and have a sense of their character and discipleship.