

GIVING RIDES TO CHILDREN & YOUTH AFTER EVENTS

In caring for young people who have been entrusted to us we have a profound duty of care to them and their families.



Anglican Diocese of
Canberra & Goulburn

In our [Code of Conduct for Ministry with Children](#), we hold to the practice that adults should not be alone with children. Section 5.33 says, "Avoid working alone or in isolation with children."

This extends to time in transit, Section 5.40 states:

"To the extent practicable, avoid being alone with a child in a motor vehicle or driving a child home unaccompanied. If such a situation is unavoidable, inform another adult of the trip and the reason for it. The key word here in this section is "unavoidable".

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There may be times when parents are unable to collect a member of the youth group after it concludes and fail to answer calls. Should it become necessary in such an instance for a leader to transport a youth group member this should be done only as an exception not a rule.

That is, not a regular practice.

"**Unavoidable**" would be for example, if a child was left after youth group for a very long time and after multiple attempts for alternative transport were made a single adult leader needed to take a child home. In such a circumstance it is recommended that an extra layer of accountability be added, for example by phoning or texting your supervisor when you and the child are leaving the event and then again when you drop them home.

Best and normative practice is:

- Parental permission should be obtained for transportation of children and young people.
- If transport is required more than one leader is to be present.
- Situations where a child or youth are transported by a single leader are only to take place if **unavoidable**, and where there are further risks associated with the child remaining uncollected.
- If repeated instances of the same child or youth not being collected on time, or transported by the same single leader emerge, the ministry unit should contact the Safe Ministry Hotline for further advice.

**We acknowledge, that good practice does take more time and effort,
but let's keep our focus on keeping everyone safe.**