

Notice of Motion: Cr Frances Gilley: Children and places of worship

Motion

1. That the Future Melbourne Committee requests that management:
 - 1.1 Note the changes to the Child safety laws with respect to child abuse in places of worship.
 - 1.2 Invite the Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People, Liana Buchanan to advise the City of Melbourne of specific and proactive actions that the City can take to facilitate child safety in places of worship in the municipality.
 - 1.3 Following a response from the Principal Commissioner for Children and Young People:
 - 1.3.1 Write to all places of worship and religious institutions that work with and care for children in the municipality, referring them of the new laws and informing them of the specific and proactive actions, as received from the Principal Commissioner, the City of Melbourne will be taking in facilitating child safety.
 - 1.3.2 Submit a report to this Committee or the Council by 1 September 2020 and include in that report recommendations for further action.

Background

The Victoria Government's *Children Legislation Amendment Bill 2019* passed through the Victorian Parliament on 10 Sept, 2019, delivering on a key election commitment. The new laws came into effect on 17 February 2020.

The legislation means people in religious ministries are now mandated to report to the police, any suspected sexual abuse of children.

In addition, the new laws ensure disclosures of abuse during religious confession, under the confessional seal are not exempt under the Failure to Disclose offence contained in the Crimes Act. This means those who don't report abuse face up to three years in prison.

Moved: Cr Frances Gilley

Seconded: Cr Reece