

# St Luke's Anglican Church Hornsby Heights

## Anaphylaxis Policy

### Policy objectives

This policy has been created to clarify the Church's role and responsibility regarding the management, prevention and treatment of anaphylactic reactions among attendees of Church sponsored events and services.

### Definitions

Anaphylaxis is a generalised allergic reaction, which often involves more than one body system (e.g. skin, respiratory, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular). A severe allergic reaction usually occurs within 20 minutes of exposure to the trigger but may take longer. It can rapidly become life threatening. Potential triggers include food (milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, sesame, fish, crustaceans, mangos and soy), insect venom (bee, wasp and jumper ant stings), medication and other items such as latex. It is important to note that this is not a comprehensive list.

### Policy statement

The Church acknowledges the risk of anaphylactic triggers to some individuals but is unable to state that it is a trigger-free environment. However, parishioners and guests are encouraged to avoid common triggers (e.g. peanuts) in foods they prepare and bring to church events.

In most cases, supervising adults (e.g. parents) will be responsible for managing any interaction with potential anaphylactic triggers, especially by children.

### Policy implementation and responsibilities

It is an individual's responsibility to avoid potential anaphylactic triggers. The Church recommends that those who may experience potentially life-threatening anaphylactic reactions inform others of their condition, symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and the appropriate first aid response if these symptoms manifest (including instruction on the use of an EpiPen, if appropriate).

When a supervising adult delivers a child with potential anaphylactic reactions into the care of Church staff or volunteers, it is the responsibility of the supervising adult to advise the staff member or volunteer of the potential triggers. It is also the responsibility of the supervising adult to advise the staff member or volunteer of the symptoms of an anaphylactic reaction and to instruct him/her/them of the appropriate first aid response if these symptoms manifest (including instruction on the use of an EpiPen, if appropriate).

The Church is not in a position to maintain a supply of EpiPens or other anaphylactic medication. In addition, due to the large number of volunteers that participate in Church events, it is not feasible for the Church to provide training to all who may find themselves in the unfortunate position of administering anaphylactic first aid.

In order to communicate this policy and its importance to the well being of all concerned, it is to be posted in a highly visible location (e.g. the church kitchen and bulletin board).

### Policy history

Version 1: The Church Wardens approved this policy on 19 July 2012.

The policy was last reviewed in March 2014.

### Acknowledgment

Portions of this document are based on a policy of Abbotsleigh School and are used with permission.