National Office
70 Graham Road
Kangaroo Ground VIC 3097
ABN 22 004 705 953

T. 03 9712 2777
E. info@wycliffe.org.au
www.wycliffe.org.au

Wycliffe Bible Translators

10 October 2026

Public Statement

Wycliffe Bible Translators Australia ('Wycliffe Australia' or 'WBTA') wishes to make this official communication as its formal response to the media release of 9 September 2026 by the Session of Reforming Presbyterian Church, East Bendigo (the 'church') (https://reformingchurch.org/journal/statement-from-the-reforming-session-of-elders-concerning-wycliffe-australia) (the 'media release').

Wycliffe Australia affirms its commitment to providing a safe workplace and ministry space for all the people who serve or work with the organisation, as well as with all members of the public who come into contact with our organisation, either directly or indirectly through other churches or organisations. Our members, volunteers and contractors are required to conduct themselves in accordance with applicable WBTA policies, most notably our 'Code of Conduct', our 'Occupational Health & Safety Policy' and our 'Safeguarding Policy', as well as our biblical values and ethos as a responsible Christian mission. Where required, our members, volunteers, and contractors alike undergo regular checks, such as National Police Checks and Working With Children Checks. WBTA takes breaches seriously and responds in accordance with its policies and legal obligations. In relation to the media release, Wycliffe Australia confirms that our leadership team has been in communication with the leadership of the church since 28 July 2026 when a complaint was first brought to our attention. Our communication with the church leadership has been open, candid, and extensive. WBTA believes it has conducted these communications transparently and in good faith.

Wycliffe Australia accepts and respects the right of the church to disengage with WBTA and our ministry. However, WBTA regrets and rejects the suggestion that WBTA has shown ***'clear evidence of institutional safeguarding failures'.***

The complaint received from the church relates to a volunteer of Wycliffe Australia who had previously attended a Presbyterian church. Immediately following receipt of the complaint, Wycliffe Australia conducted a review of the suitability of the volunteer to continue in their assigned ministry role.

Following our investigation and review, with information already in WBTA's possession and additional information provided by the church, and supported by external independent legal advice, we reached the conclusion that the information available did not warrant ending the volunteer's involvement with WBTA and communicated that decision to the church. As part of our investigation and safeguarding risk review, WBTA also concluded that it has put in place specific measures that we believe adequately address potential associated risks of the volunteer's continued involvement in Wycliffe Australia's assigned ministry, including the '***safeguarding risks***' referred to in the media release.

While WBTA accepts the church's right to disagree with WBTA's decision concerning the

volunteer, WBTA is satisfied that its thorough and extensive review did not establish grounds requiring the volunteer's involvement to be terminated under applicable Wycliffe Australia policies. The review concluded that the identified risks could be appropriately managed through the safeguards and controls put in place.

Accordingly, Wycliffe Australia respectfully but firmly rejects any suggestion that its decision to allow the volunteer's continued ministry involvement '***directly led to breaches of safety boundaries***'.

Throughout the investigation and review process, WBTA has not been made aware of any extenuating and or new information that suggests that the continued involvement of the volunteer with WBTA is in itself a breach of **'safety boundaries'** as alluded to in the media release or that it poses a serious risk to a breach of its policies.

On the basis of the paragraph above, WBTA also rejects the suggestion that it is aware or in possession of information or extensive evidence of '***serious safeguarding concerns***'. Given that WBTA has clearly communicated its decision in an open, transparent, and responsible manner to the church, WBTA is therefore very disappointed that the church has chosen to make and maintain these serious allegations.

As a responsible mission organisation, WBTA is committed to complying with all applicable statutory and legal obligations and takes seriously its duty of care towards those who work with us and members of the public. WBTA also has a responsibility to safeguard the integrity and reputation of the organisation when serious allegations are made against it. It is with regret that we consider it necessary to issue this public communication to clarify our official position and address any public perception that Wycliffe Australia has acted, or continues to act, in breach of its policies or legal obligations.

Wycliffe Australia's work in the global Bible translation movement is strengthened by longstanding partnerships with Australian churches and by our commitment to serving with integrity as a responsible mission agency. We have always sought to strengthen these partnerships wherever possible.

In light of the matters outlined above, Wycliffe Australia formally requests that the church retract its public statement of 9 September 2026, together with any related public statements containing allegations concerning WBTA's safeguarding practices or institutional conduct. We believe this is a reasonable and appropriate step to prevent the continued publication of allegations that Wycliffe Australia firmly disputes.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this statement, please reach out directly to our Chair of the Board (boardchair@wycliffe.org.au).

Wycliffe Australia
70 Graham Rd,
Kangaroo Ground 3097