

Continuous Improvement and Meeting Standards

2022 Child Protection Week - Celebrating Differences in our Community

On Sunday 11 September the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney celebrated National Child Protection Week for the sixth year in a row. This year's theme was Celebrating Differences. Child Protection Week provides us with an opportunity to reflect on how we celebrate and embrace differences within our community.

To help us reflect, the Safeguarding Office has developed a new resource for Children; the *Celebrating Differences – We are all special- Activity Book*. The Celebrating Differences Activity Book is for Children aged between 3 – 12 years. It has been designed for Children to help them recognise and celebrate differences and diversity within our community and the world. The activity book informs Children about different cultures and religions and how they are celebrated around the world. The Safeguarding Office hopes that this book will help Children to recognise and celebrate differences and diversity within our Archdiocese.



This resource can be accessed on the Safeguarding [website](#):

The Safeguarding Office would like to especially thank all the Parishes that promoted the Child Protection Week competition. We received a great response from the Children of the Archdiocese, the winning designs can be viewed in the Activity Book.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

(Cont.)

Self-Assessments

2021 Parish Self-Assessment Report Findings:

The 2021 Parish Self-Assessment was a scaled down version of the previous years Self-Assessment, with a stronger focus on providing evidence base responses. The Self-Assessment was broken up into ten sections and each of these sections had 2 - 3 questions that reflected the 10 National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, developed by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd. The Archdiocese has 135 parishes and 142 individual churches, chapels or shrines (Church entities) within those Parishes. A Self-Assessment was expected for each individual church, chapel or shrine.

- 85 Church entities achieved results between 75%-100% compliance
- 44 Church entities achieved results between 50% - 74%
- 13 Church entities achieved results 50% and lower

2022 Self-Assessment

With Safeguarding Parish and Agency Visitations completed, the Safeguarding Office in the following weeks will be releasing via email the 2022 Self-Assessment for Parish, Agencies and Chaplaincy Communities.

The 2022 Safeguarding Self-Assessment has been developed using Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd's (ACSL) Self-Assessment of Compliance. Anna Sammut will be responsible for the Parish Self-Assessment, while Kristie Benedetti will look after Chaplaincy Community and Agency Self-Assessments. Please be on the lookout for Anna and Kristie's 2022 Safeguarding Self-Assessment email in the coming weeks.

Visiting Clergy Protocols

All clergy engaged in public ministry require habitual Faculties granted by the Bishop of the place in which they reside and/or exercise their appointed ministry. Whenever clergy move to minister in another diocese or parish, they require Permission to Minister in that new situation from the appropriate authority. Such permission can only be granted when a cleric's Bishop or Ordinary has testified to his good standing and his Working With Children Check (WWCC) has been verified by the receiving diocese or parish. There are various procedures for obtaining permission to minister in another diocese depending on where a cleric is incardinated and on which documentation is available.

Please remind any Visiting Clergy that are attending your Parish or Community that they must sign the Visiting Clergy Register.

Visiting Clergy Protocols and forms are available on the Archdiocese of Sydney website under ['Information for Visiting Clergy Tab'](#) – bottom right hand corner of website.

We request that all Priests of our Parishes display the Safeguarding notice below in all future parish bulletins.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** or [**safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org**](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org). You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Sharing Knowledge

"And the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes, and when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire died down." – Numbers 11:1-4



Sharing Knowledge Resource 3.

Recording Safeguarding Concerns and Complaints

The Archdiocese of Sydney encourages the reporting of Safeguarding Concerns and/or Complaints by an individual who reasonably and in good faith suspects unacceptable practice or behaviour by a person associated with the Archdiocese of Sydney through employment, contract or volunteering.

Standard 6 of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and the Child Safe Standards, requires Parishes, Agencies and Chaplaincy Communities to implement and evidence the following:

- Complaints are taken seriously and responded to promptly and thoroughly;
- There are clear procedures that provide step-by-step guidance on what action to take for different types of complaints, including breaches of Codes of Conduct, disclosures, allegations or concerns of abuse of a child, be they historic or current;
- Processes are in place to record all child abuse complaints, incidents, allegations, disclosures, concerns and referrals; Recording includes notes regarding actions taken, including all internal investigations and reports made to statutory authorities or professional bodies; and
- Records to be secure so that confidential information is stored, protected and retained for 50 years; and only delegated personnel is to have access to complaint records.

To assist Parish, Agencies and Chaplaincy Communities comply and evidence Standard 6 the Safeguarding Office has developed a suite of documents to help Clergy, Agency Heads and Workers with Safeguarding Complaints and/or Concerns that come to their attention such as:

Flowchart: Reporting Safeguarding Complaints:

This Flowchart assist Clergy, Agency Heads and Workers in how and where to make report when they suspect that a person has acted in a manner that is inappropriate or unsafe towards a Child.

Form: Reporting Details of Safeguarding Complaint:

This form is to be filled out by Clergy, Agency Head, or any person who suspects a Reportable Crime, Reportable Allegation, conviction considered to be a Reportable Conviction, or otherwise has a Safeguarding Concern.

Flowchart: Managing Safeguarding Complaints:

This flowchart sets out the steps for managing a Safeguarding Complaint after it has been notified to the Safeguarding Office.

The Safeguarding Office urges you not to see complaints or concerns as a negative, in fact complaints and concerns can help to create really important change. The Royal Commission is a great example of how complaints and concerns create change. The Safeguarding Office is always happy to support you with any Safeguarding concerns or complaints that come your way. For more information on the above topics visit the [Safeguarding Website](#).