



## CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF DARWIN

The Diocese of Darwin takes very seriously its responsibilities in safeguarding and protection of children but also responding to adults who were subjected to abuse during their childhood whilst in the care of the church. The Diocese has had in place a Professional Standards Office for more than 20 years.

The South Australian and Northern Territory Professional Standards Office provides the following services to the Diocese of Darwin

- managing complaints of historical abuse through the church's internal process.
- complaint management in relation to areas of misconduct
- consultancy and advice
- training

The Diocese welcomes all adults who wish to make a complaint of historical abuse to:

- go directly to the police; or
- contact the professional standards office; or
- contact a legal advisor for civil options; or
- contact the National Redress Scheme (sexual abuse only)

The work of protecting and safeguarding of children and young people in the Catholic Diocese of Darwin is in accordance with Australian and Northern Territory legislation and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. These Standards are based on the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and provide the basis for our work to promote the safeguarding of children.

An Integrity Officer / Child Safety Coordinator has been employed in the Diocese. The Integrity Officer / Child Safety Coordinator is responsible for leading the ongoing development and continuous improvement to realise Child Safe cultures and outcomes.

Parishes have appointed Safeguarding Coordinators who assist with work of promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people at the local level. These Safeguarding Coordinators are volunteers, offering their time to work with the Integrity Officer/ Child Safety Coordinator, parish priest and parish councils. This work relating to the protection of children and young people has been undertaken for several years.

The Diocese of Darwin has a child safety policy and a statement of commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Policies, procedures and resources have also been developed as a commitment to continual improvement in the safeguarding of children

and young people. These include risk management, code of conduct and complaint management.

The Diocese of Darwin meets with parishes to assist in creating safe environments for children and young people. Conversations focus on parish activities where children and young people are involved. Good practice is acknowledged and promoted in the review. Potential risks are considered, and control measures to reduce or eliminate these risks are implemented. Additional actions are recorded, to further develop safe environments for children and young people.

Induction and ongoing training in child safe practice has been accessed and provided by the Diocese of Darwin. Training in governance, risk management and good practice for safeguarding of children and young people has been undertaken. Sessions on the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards have also been provided.

Networking with other Catholic, inter-denominational, and service providers takes place to enhance knowledge and practice, enhancing ongoing program development and implementation.

The Diocese of Darwin supports a culture that puts the safety of children and young people at the centre of our reflection, conversations and action.

An Audit by Catholic Professional Standards will take place in August 2019. The realisation and evaluations of the work in the Diocese of Darwin will inform further priorities.