




Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide
Integrity and Safeguarding
Department

**Archdiocesan Offices, Schools,
Multicultural Communities, and
Parishes**

**Safeguarding Children and Young
People Policy**

Approved by: 
Archbishop of Adelaide

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Table of Contents

Archdiocesan Vision Statement.....	3
Archdiocesan Mission Statement.....	3
Policy Vision.....	3
Commitment	3
Purpose.....	3
Scope.....	4
Principles.....	4
Policy Framework and Policy Alignments.....	4
Roles and Responsibilities.....	5
Reporting	6
Definitions	7

Archdiocesan Vision Statement

The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide strives to be a welcoming, Christ-centred community of Believers serving others. As missionary disciples, we are committed to building up the Body of Christ by listening, discerning and growing in the Spirit, journeying together.

Archdiocesan Mission Statement

As followers of Jesus, loved by God, nurtured and formed in community we are called to be: Sharers of faith, hope and love Builders of bridges Healers of broken relationships Agents of transformation in our world

Policy Vision

The Archdiocese seeks to build a family-centred Church, strengthening community, and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, with a particular concern for those who are poor, at risk, or disadvantaged.

The Archdiocese is committed to the safeguarding of all which reflects Gospel values in providing children, families, and individuals with a welcoming, nurturing, child and adult-friendly environment, free from risk of harm.

The Archdiocese has zero tolerance for all forms of abuse and strives to provide safe environments for all.

Commitment

The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide values the dignity of all God's children and takes seriously our role in safeguarding their wellbeing and protection both within the Church environment and communities in which they are raised. The Archdiocese strives to maintain a child safe culture which recognises the welfare and safety of children and young people as paramount. Cultural responsiveness is essential in our interactions and supports the needs of children and young people from all diverse backgrounds.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide will always act in the best interest of the child or young person as demonstrated by our Commitment Statement for Safeguarding Our Children and Young People which integrates the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child as the foundation for child protection.

Purpose

The purpose of this is to provide an overarching policy framework which guides and gives structure for Catholic Church agencies, schools, parishes and communities to develop and implement procedures and policies which establish and maintain child safe environments.

Scope

This policy applies to all Archdiocesan clergy, religious, employees and volunteers.

Principles

The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide seeks to:

1. Ensure all children and young people are protected and kept safe from harm and risk of harm through:
 - Legislative requirements
 - Professional duty of care
 - Pastoral care
2. Promote safeguarding children and young people as everyone's responsibility
3. Build a culture which prioritises and maintains safe environments for all through policy compliance and review for continuous improvement
4. Provide children and young people with opportunities to be heard and participate in the life of the Church
5. Acknowledge and respond to the particular needs of children and young people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including children with disability and children of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage
6. Communicate our commitment of being a Child Safe Organisation with zero tolerance to any form of harm, risk of harm or abuse related trauma.
7. Plan for safe, open and supportive environments and identify any areas of risk
8. Deliver relevant safeguarding training, education programs and provide guidance to those with roles which engage children and young people
9. Develop and implement protective systems and safe transparent practices which are both preventative and responsive
10. Raise, report and respond appropriately to all signs, indicators of harm, risk of harm and abuse including disclosures and concerns of inappropriate behaviour towards children and young people

Policy Framework and Policy Alignments

This policy is aligned to the requirements and principles of the following external policies and processes:

1. Integrity in Our Common Mission
2. The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards
3. National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

4. National Response Protocols

Legislation

1. Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017
2. Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016
3. Statutes Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse) Act 2021

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the requirements of the following internal policies and procedures of the Archdiocese:

1. Archdiocesan commitment Statement – Safeguarding Our Children and Young People
2. Best Practice Guidelines
3. Mandatory Reporting Policy
4. Archdiocesan Code of Conduct
5. Screening Policy - Working with Children Checks
6. Centacare Children and Young People Safety Policy
7. Catholic Education South Australia, Child Protection Procedures

Roles and Responsibilities

All Catholic Church agencies, schools, parishes and communities are responsible for the implementation and monitoring of procedures and practices which demonstrate a safe environment for all and work collaboratively to ensure effective achievement of a Child Safe Organisation.

All Archdiocesan clergy, religious, employees and volunteers are responsible for:

1. Helping to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and promoting respectful relationships to support the dignity of each child and young person
2. Holding a current Department of Human Services Working With Children Check facilitated by the Archdiocese Integrity and Safeguarding Department (*Safeguarding Operations Team*)
3. Participating in mandatory notification training and relevant education which assists to safeguard children and young people
4. Reporting and responding in culturally appropriate ways to children and young people who disclose or show signs that they are experiencing harm or are at risk of harm
5. Adhering to codes of conducts and Best Practice Guidelines which establish standards of behaviour and practices, including the principles of this policy.

Reporting

In accordance with the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017, a minister of religion or a person who is an employee of, or volunteer in, an organisation formed for religious or spiritual purposes are required to;

1. Notify the Department for Child Protection if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a child or young person has experienced harm or is at risk of harm. Under this section of the Act a notification is mandated and must be accompanied by a statement of the observation, information and opinions on which the suspicion is based.

To make a report to the **Child Abuse Report Line (CARL): Ph 13 14 78**

And

2. Make a report to the Integrity and Professional Standards Team (IPS) of the Integrity and Safeguarding Department. The IPS Team will then be responsible for determining the appropriate response to support the safety and care of the person. This may involve liaison with the persons' family and carers and/or the making of referrals for support and care via services provided by organisations such as Centacare.

Once a report has been made to the IPS Team of the Integrity and Safeguarding Department, the person making the report should take no further action without first consulting with and seeking approval from the IPS Team of the Integrity and Safeguarding Department.

Contact the **Integrity and Professional Standards Team** (IPS) of the Integrity and Professional Standards Department on:

PH: (08) 8210 8150.

E: receptionprofstandards@adelaide.catholic.org.au

The IPS Team is also available to answer questions, provide advice, and offer support if required.

REMEMBER: For any concerns regarding the *immediate* safety of a child or young person, always call 000.

Definitions

(in accordance with the Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017)

At Risk	A child or young person is considered to be at risk if the child or young person has suffered harm, is likely to suffer harm, or is likely to be removed from the State for the purpose of an unlawful medical procedure, to be married or take part in an illegal activity. A child or young person will be taken at risk if their parent or guardian are unable or unwilling to care for them, or if the child or young person is persistently absent from school without explanation, homeless or at no fixed address.
Harm	Physical harm or psychological harm, whether caused by an act or omission, includes such harm caused by sexual, physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect.
Sexual Abuse	Any sexual activity or behaviour that is imposed on a child or young person by someone else. Sexual abuse occurs when someone in a position of power uses that power to involve the child or young person in sexual activity.
Grooming	When a person tries to form a bond or a friendship with a child, and sometimes relationship building with the child's family or organisation to gain their trust and create opportunities to start, maintain and hide their sexual abuse of a child. Grooming may occur in person or online.
Physical Harm	The child has suffered or is at significant risk of suffering physical trauma or inflicted injury due to the actions of their caregiver. An injury is considered 'inflicted' if it was alleged to be caused wilfully or as a result of punishment.
Psychological/Emotional Harm	The child's social, emotional, or cognitive development is impaired or seriously at risk as a direct result of persistent caregiver behaviour or attitude towards the child, whereby the child's self-esteem and social competence are undermined or eroded over time. This includes the witnessing of domestic and family violence, hearing it or being exposed to the consequences of emotions post violence.

Neglect	Characterised by serious, ongoing failure to provide for a child's basic needs, to the extent that the child's development, safety and well-being are at risk.
Church, Parish, or Archdiocesan Personnel	Clergy, members of religious orders, employees, and volunteers of the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide.