



Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy Statement

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and the Diocese of Rockhampton is committed to safeguarding all children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy applies to everyone who works within the Diocese of Rockhampton. That is clergy, religious, employees, students on placement, volunteers and agencies operating within the Diocese.

Nothing in the Policy affects the expectations set out in [Integrity in Ministry](#) (June 2010) and [Integrity in the Service of the Church](#) (September 2011), although this Policy has a wider remit. [Towards Healing](#) (2010) is the Church's pastoral response to those harmed by individuals with pastoral responsibility within the Church and, again, this Policy has a wider scope.

As entities of the Diocese of Rockhampton, the Diocesan Finance Office, Catholic Education Office Diocese of Rockhampton, CentacareCQ and the Diocesan Pastoral Ministries are accountable to the Bishop of Rockhampton, who is responsible for safeguarding within the Diocese. These Diocesan entities adhere to their individual policies and related procedures. These documents are to comply with and complement this overarching Policy to ensure that all children and vulnerable adults are safeguarded within the Diocese. Other Catholic entities including Mercy Partners, Mercy Health and Aged Care, Saint Vincent de Paul Society, the Personal Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Edmund Rice Education Australia, Syro-Malabar Eparchy of St Thomas the Apostle, Melbourne and the Catholic Military Ordinariate of Australia should comply with this Policy while operating within the Diocese.

The policy is intended to provide a uniform standard of best practice in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. It contains the policy statement that articulates the core principles, church documents and legislation upon which it is based. The safeguarding procedures are built around four key domains:

- 1) Safe recruitment and selection practices;
- 2) Code of ethical behaviour;
- 3) Safe activities and environments, and
- 4) Responding to concerns, allegations and disclosures.

Training, audit and regular reviews are embedded in all four domains and this includes:

- Training of key persons, staff and volunteers in the requirements of the Policy both on induction and on a regular basis thereafter;
- Regular audit, site reviews, incident management and policy review arising from the practice of the Policy including training; and
- Regular reviews of roles and responsibilities covered by the Policy.

The policy appendices offer practical examples of administrative materials that will support parishes in adhering to this Policy and in meeting their obligations for best practice and compliance.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy can be found on the Diocesan website at: <http://rok.catholic.net.au/our-diocese/safeguarding/policy/>