



Professional Standards in the Catholic Church in Australia: *The Royal Commission, the Pastoral Reality*

Presented by:

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Overview

- *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse: the pastoral reality*
 1. For all those who provide ministry to children and young people in Australia;
 2. For Migrant Chaplains who work in pastoral care to our migrant communities; and
 3. For the many clergy and religious who come from overseas to minister and mission in our Dioceses and Religious Congregations?
- Post Royal Commission: moving forward with confidence

Present Pastoral reality

Some clergy and religious have said that they are:

- Feeling shocked, disappointed, outraged, numb
- Experiencing suspicion and a diminished lack of trust

Present Pastoral reality

Some clergy and religious have said that they are:

- Overwhelmed and unsure of policies, procedures and legislative responsibilities in relation to Child Protection:
 - different legislation across the 6 States and 2 Territories
 - different procedures from diocese to diocese,
- Lacking in confidence as they haven't had sufficient training/education in this area

Comments have included:

- “I am nervous to set foot in a school”
- “What do I do if a young child makes any physical contact with me? E.g. after Mass in front of the Church. Do I push them away?”
- “I don’t know what appropriate touch is anymore.”
- “What if a young person needs pastoral support and wants to speak to me privately?”

Comments have included:

- “I am overwhelmed by the policies and regulations. I’m scared I will make a mistake.”
- “All of this is so different to my country of birth.”
- “What do I do if I know a child is being physically or emotionally harmed at home? It really isn’t my place to interfere with what is happening in a private home, is it?”

Comments have included:

- “How do we encourage those in migrant communities to come forward and report abuse when it is often counter-cultural for them? They often do not trust Police/statutory authorities.”
- “This is a taboo topic in our culture.”

There is hope and plenty of support!

Post Royal Commission-moving forward with confidence

WE ARE HERE TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND SUPPORT:

- National Protection and Prevention Officers (NCPS)
- Directors of State and Territory Professional Standards Offices
- Catholic Professional Standards Ltd
- Safeguarding Managers for Dioceses and Religious Institutes

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DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK!

- Who is your professional 'go to' person?
- You don't have to become an expert on all Child Protection legislation

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EDUCATION and TRAINING !!!!!!!!

- Avail yourself of every opportunity
- Facilitate information sessions for your parishes, migrant communities etc.

For people from diverse cultural backgrounds, training is most beneficial when it includes:

- Real-life scenarios
- Opportunities for small group discussions and plenty of time for questions

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ENLIST THE SUPPORT OF ELDERS OR
COMMUNITY LEADERS

(particularly when it comes to organising education sessions or bringing forward concerns)

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GUIDANCE

E.g. Equity is promoted and diversity respected

Child Safe Standards

(Governments and Catholic Church)

‘Particular attention is paid to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children with a disability, and children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds’

(Creating Child Safe Institutions-Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. July 2016)

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GUIDANCE FOR THOSE IN MINISTRY

'Integrity in Ministry' (NCPS)

'Integrity in the Service of the Church' (NCPS)

Diocesan or Religious Institute's Policies and Codes of Conduct

Questions ???????

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