



Child
Protection
Council

POLICY



South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council Policy for the
Care, Wellbeing and Protection
of Children and Young People



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"Children need people who
want to be there for them.

They need people that
will be kind to them.

Children would be happy to
have someone who loves them."

(Year 3-4 student at Galilee Catholic School, 2009)



1. Introduction:

1.1 *“Children and young people are our present and our future.*

They have the right to grow and to develop their full potential physically, emotionally and spiritually.

That potential is their families’ and communities’ responsibility to nurture and fulfil.”

(Excerpt from the Child Protection Council Charter, March 2005)



- 1.2 The South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council operates within the legislation, the *Children's Protection Act 1993 (SA)* and the amendments which came into effect in 2006. The Council was established to promote and oversee the safety and wellbeing of children and young people within the Church community in South Australia, in partnership with their families.

- 1.3 It is essential that children and young people are respected and valued through trusting and secure relationships. In this way, a foundation of emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing and security is achieved for children and young people. This is our community responsibility and the responsibility of the Church.

- 1.4 This Policy informs and directs all child protection procedures within the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie.

- 1.5 This Policy applies to all clergy, religious, pastoral directors, pastoral associates, principals, directors of diocesan agencies, employed staff and volunteers.



2. Underlying principles:

“Let the children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.”

Mark 10:13-15



- 2.1 Children and young people have unique gifts, and each child and young person requires different support to reach their potential.
- 2.2 Children and young people grow to their full potential when they are provided with a spiritual, emotional and physical environment that is enriching and safe.
- 2.3 The Catholic Church shares the responsibility for the care, wellbeing and protection of the child or young person with their family and the broader community.
- 2.4 The Child Protection Council will work with all Church bodies in the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie to encourage and promote leadership in the field of child protection.
- 2.5 The Child Protection Council will provide advice and assistance to Church bodies to develop, implement and review their child protection procedures in line with the Charter and this Policy.



3. Policy statement:

- 3.1 The Catholic Church in South Australia recognises the dignity of all children and young people before God and the significant role that the Catholic Church community plays in promoting environments that nurture the wellbeing of children, young people and their families.

- 3.2 The development of respectful relationships between people provides the foundation of Catholic ministry. The Church demonstrates its commitment to the safety of children and young people by defining appropriate relationships, behaviours and practices.

- 3.3 All personnel in the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie have a responsibility to create and maintain the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, and to protect them from harm.



4. A guide to responsibilities:

The Child Protection Council directs all Catholic Church bodies involved in the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie to understand and fulfil the vision of child-safe environments. The Council assists priests, religious, employees and volunteers to promote and maximise safe and enriching environments for children and young people with whom they have contact.

All Church bodies will develop and implement child protection procedures relevant to their area of operation.

4.1 Responsibilities of members of the Catholic Church community

It is the responsibility of each person involved in the Catholic Church community to contribute to the creation of safe and enriching environments for children and young people.



4.2 Responsibilities of Catholic Church bodies operating in the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie

- 4.2.1 To work collaboratively with other Church bodies towards the creation of safe and enriching environments for children and young people.
- 4.2.2 To ensure that child protection procedures are in place, specific to their area of operation, and approved by the Child Protection Council.
- 4.2.3 To resource both the implementation of such procedures, and the promotion of ongoing child protection initiatives.
- 4.2.4 To ensure that each person involved with children and young people is aware of her or his responsibility in relation to child protection.
- 4.2.5 To review procedures in line with the requirements of the Child Protection Council.



4.3 Responsibilities of personnel within the Catholic Church

- 4.3.1 To listen to children and young people and create ways to involve them in developing and maintaining child-safe environments.
- 4.3.2 To undertake Child Safe Environments training as specified by the Child Protection Council in order to identify and respond to children at risk of harm, and to understand their legal obligations as mandated notifiers of child sexual abuse and/or neglect.
- 4.3.3 To abide by this Policy and the procedures of their respective Church body.



4.4 Responsibilities of the South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council

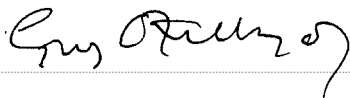
- 4.4.1 To provide leadership and articulate a vision for the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie as directed by the Charter of the Child Protection Council.
- 4.4.2 To work with all Church bodies in the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie, to offer support, direction and consultation about child protection procedures, including appropriate training and education in the Church community in South Australia.
- 4.4.3 To recommend to the Archbishop of Adelaide and the Bishop of Port Pirie approval of child protection procedures, and ensure their appropriate implementation through regular audit.
- 4.4.4 To ensure there is a child protection training and education framework for employees and volunteers, as appropriate, in the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie.



5. Policy approval



Archbishop Philip Wilson DD JCL
ARCHBISHOP OF ADELAIDE



Bishop Greg O'Kelly SJ
BISHOP OF PORT PIRIE



Dr Prue McEvoy
CHAIR, SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
CATHOLIC CHILD PROTECTION COUNCIL

Date: December 2009

This Policy will be reviewed every three years.



GLOSSARY

Catholic Church community

The concept of Church community is broad and includes any Catholic Church body and all people involved in the life and work of the Church. The term Church body is defined below.

Child or young person

Includes a person from conception to 18 years of age. It may include young adults with disabilities.

Church body

Includes a diocese, religious institute and any other juridical person, body corporate, organisation or association. It also includes autonomous lay organisations that exercise pastoral ministry within, or on behalf of, the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Adelaide or the Diocese of Port Pirie.

Church community/communities

A church community refers to individual parishes, schools and agencies which comprise the membership of the Church in South Australia.



Church personnel

Includes any cleric, member of religious institute or other persons who are employed or engaged by a Church body, or appointed by a Church body to voluntary positions in which they work with, or are in close proximity to, children or young people, or are engaged in other forms of pastoral care.

Family

Includes units consisting of parents, care-givers, young people and children. Parents may be biological, adoptive or foster and the units may consist of blended and extended families, single parent families, families with children or young people in respite or foster care or relatives with the care of children or young people.



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