

DIOCESE OF BUNBURY

MANDATORY REPORTING FOR ALL LICENSED MINISTER'S:- ALL CLERGY AND LAY PERSONS COMMENCING 1 NOVEMBER 2022

OBLIGATIONS

1. **All licensed Ministers (Clergy and Lay) become Mandatory Reporters in WA from 1 November 2022.** This was brought into law by the WA Government in October 2021.
2. All Licensed Lay Ministers (LLMs) and all clergy are responsible for ensuring they understand their responsibilities which come into effect on 1 November 2022.
3. **All clergy and LLMs are required by the Diocese, to have completed the online training prior to 1 November 2022 which is provided by the Department for Communities. Please contact the Diocesan Office if this is not possible.**
4. Each clergy person holding an active licence from the Bishop (including Permission to Officiate (PTO) licenses) and LLMs with a current Bishop's licence as an LLM must send through to the Diocese for recording the **Certificate of Completion of the training** provided by the Department for Community Service prior to 1 November 2022.
5. The details for Mandatory Reporting and the process required can be obtained from the following website:

www.mandatoryreporting.dcp.wa.gov.au

Lodge the written mandatory report by emailing: mrs@dcp.wa.gov.au or post to: PO Box 8146 Perth, BC WA 6849

If there is urgency in making the report, call the MRS.

- Follow the relevant procedures in the Child Protection Department and Diocesan Safe Church policy.
 - Lodge an online Incident Notification and quote the mandatory report receipt number. Store the information in accordance with the Child Protection Department and Diocesan Safe Church Policy.
6. The contact details are as follows for the training
 7. **Remember...** All children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse (sexual, physical, emotional, psychological and neglect). Anyone who thinks a child has suffered, or is suffering, from abuse should report this to the Department for Child Protection.

Telephone: (08) 9222 2555

Country freecall: 1800 622 258

TTY: (08) 9325 1232

Web: www.childprotection.wa.gov.au

FAQs

Retired clergy without a licence, are not mandatory reporters

Definition of a Minister of Religion:

- Means a person who is recognised in accordance with the practices of a faith or religion as a person who is authorized to conduct services or ceremonies in accordance with the tenets of the faith or religion; and
- Includes such a person regardless of how the person's position or title is described (for example, member of the clergy, priest, minister, imam, rabbi or pastor)

Mandatory Reporting:

Everyone who is currently licensed as a clergy person or a Licensed Lay Minister is legally a Mandatory Reporter from 1 November 2022. This includes clergy with Permission to Officiate Licences (PTOs).

Those who are defined as 'minister of religion' are 'specified persons' in the Act.

There are financial and legal penalties for not complying.

Confessions are not excluded.

Information provided in a confessional context is included for mandatory reporting purposes. There are no exclusions. The Diocese of Bunbury also passed legislation at its 2017 Synod to ensure Clergy were able to report such matters relating to child abuse and sexual abuse of vulnerable persons to the police.

Confidentiality

There are penalties and obligations to keep confidentiality and the privacy of all concerned.

Training

The online training of Mandatory Reporters is intended to be helpful and provide a framework for those now becoming Mandatory Reporters from 1 November 2022. Not knowing the law or not having done the training will not be an excuse for not complying with the requirements as a Mandatory Reporter.

MANDATORY REPORTING ONLINE TRAINING FOR CLERGY AND LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

Instructions

Mandatory Reporting Training is now accessible on the WA.gov.au website on the Mandatory Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse Page.

A direct link to access the course, which can be copied into your browser, is as follows:

https://moodle.communities.wa.gov.au/file.php/1/PublicCourses/Mandatory_Reporter_Training/story.html

or you can go to the www.wa.gov.au website and in the Search box enter:

Mandatory Reporter Training

Scroll down to Mandatory Reporting Online Training

Scroll down to Click here for Mandatory Reporter Online Training and click on this heading which will take you into the course.

Details

The training is divided into 3 parts and each part has 2 modules. Each module focuses on a key information area followed by a short quiz. It will take up to an hour to complete the whole training.

Make sure you have a notebook and pen with you as you fill in the quizzes, so you can make any corrections you need to as you do the quiz. If you don't answer correctly, the training takes you back to the page and the part of the quiz you have answered incorrectly and will keep doing so until you are 100% correct.

Use a computer you can return to so you can continue your progress if you don't finish the training in one sitting. **If you change your computer or IP address part way through, your progress will not be saved and you will have to restart the course.**

At the end of the training, you will be required to enter some demographic information. By providing this information to the Department of Communities, with the optional information in this survey, you are agreeing to its possible use in the following ways:

- As an indicator of how widely the training is being accessed by mandatory reporters, and by which mandatory groups and organisations.
- As feedback on how successful the training is for preparing new mandatory reporters to meet their reporting obligations.

This information will also generate a Completion Certificate, which will be emailed directly to the email address you provide.

PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETION CERTIFICATE TO THE OFFICE, TO TIFFANY DELLA-VEDOVA ON dosupport@bunbury.org.au or ring: 08 9721 2100 to ask for assistance.