

**ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BUNBURY
SAFE CHURCH POLICY**

POLICY: INTERNAL REPORTING PROTOCOL RELATING TO SAFE CHURCH REQUIREMENTS AND PRACTICES:

- 1. INFORMATION, COMPLAINTS AND OTHER MATTERS OF CONCERN**
- 2. SUSPENSION OF CLERGY**
- 3. FURTHER INVESTIGATION**

Approved: BIC 19Nov20

POLICY

The Anglican Church in the Diocese of Bunbury is committed to transparency, appropriate sharing of information, maintaining accuracy of records, observing strict confidentiality and promoting accountability at all levels including in its Internal Reporting Protocol. The words and phrases in this Protocol have the meaning given in the Professional Standards Statute 2004.

Protocol

The Professional Standards Director (the Director) must advise the Bishop of Bunbury, (or the Administrator in the Bishop's absence) and the Chairperson of the Diocesan Safe Ministry Authority (DSMA) in writing as soon as reasonably practicable after becoming aware of the following matters:

1. All complaints of sexual misconduct, including allegations of sexual abuse, received by the Director in relation to Church workers or Church volunteers (including school workers and agency workers) in the Diocese
2. All matters reported to the Police by the Director, or third parties and of which the Director is informed
3. Any known sex offenders or persons of concern who have asked the parish priest and / or the Director for permission to worship in a Parish
4. Any unresolved issues following a search of the National Register
5. Any matters which may attract media attention
6. Any concerns or difficulties with, or inappropriate direction given by, the Professional Standards Committee
7. Any inappropriate actions identified within the national network of Professional Standards Directors; and
8. Any matters that may identify a policy or process failure with the Diocese and with the Province where this may have an impact on the Diocese, so this may be followed up by the DSMA for the Diocese

This information will include all relevant actions taken by the Director or others and further follow up as required. These will include ensuring all appropriate risk management strategies, Worshipping Agreements, support group members and related parish requirements are in place to manage the behaviour of the individuals in a Worshipping Agreement and the necessary people are notified. These people are:

- The Clergy person
- The DSMA Chairperson
- The Wardens
- The Support and Monitoring Group Members
- The Bishop

Undertaking by the Bishop, the Administrator, the DSMA Chairperson

If the Bishop, the Administrator or the DSMA Chairperson are made aware of any complaint or information identifying child sexual abuse or misconduct, the Bishop, the Administrator or the DSMA Chairperson will promptly notify the Director, and the other members of this group so the appropriate documentation, follow up or investigation may be actioned.

Suspension of Clergy

If after receipt of a referral or at any time during the progress of investigation under the Professional Standards Statute the Director or the Professional Standards Committee are satisfied there is an immediate or otherwise unacceptable risk of harm to any person if the Church worker or Church volunteer remains in his or her present office or position of responsibility pending the outcome of further investigation, the Director of Professional Standards Committee may, as the urgency of the matter requires, make a recommendation direct to the Bishop or other relevant Church authority including the Diocesan Safe Ministry Authority while the outcome of the investigations are pending. Such a recommendation may state:

- a) the Church worker or Church volunteer be suspended immediately from the duties of any office or position of responsibility held by the respondent or certain duties
- b) a prohibition order be made against the Church worker or Church volunteer; or
- c) the Church worker or Church volunteer be required to enter into a Safe Church Agreement with the Church authority,
- d) If the Church worker or Church volunteer fails to enter into a Safe Church Agreement with the Church authority, the individual may be excluded from entry or access to premises or activities of the Church that either generally or in a specified location or circumstances; or
- e) such other action be taken as may be thought appropriate.

Where the Bishop is the relevant Church authority in relation to the Church worker or Church volunteer, the Bishop must give effect to the recommendation.