

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF BUNBURY

PROTOCOL FOR DISCLOSURE AND MANAGEMENT OF KNOWN SEX OFFENDERS IN THE PARISH

PURPOSE

In the event of disclosure, this protocol has been established to outline the process that needs to be followed when a person in the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury discloses they have committed sexual abuse or assault.

SCOPE

- All parish priests in the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury
- All parishes in the Anglican Diocese of Bunbury
- Any persons who have committed sexual offences
- The Diocesan Secretary and Bishop

THE KNOWN SEX OFFENDER (The Offender)

When an Offender discloses to the parish priest that they have a history of sexual offending, the Offender must:

- Meet with the Director of Professional Standards and the parish priest to discuss the matter
- View the draft worshipping agreement (See Policy on 'Known Sex Offenders and Persons of Concern') prepared by the Diocese of Bunbury
- Provide additional information regarding their offending and reporting requirements
- Sign the worshipping agreement
- Comply with restrictions and conditions of the worshipping agreement; and
- Notify the Director of Professional Standards or parish priest if their situation changes or if they intend to leave the parish.

THE PARISH PRIEST MUST:

- Advise the Offender there is a Policy and process in place for people who have committed sexual abuse or assault, and the Director of Professional Standards has to be involved.
- Advise the Director of Professional Standards that an Offender attends worship and or is a parishioner
- View a draft of the worshipping agreement (see the Policy)
- Appoint a support and monitoring person or network
- Outline support and supervision responsibilities
- Advise parish wardens of the situation
- Provide pastoral care and support
- Advise the Director of Professional Standards if:
 - The agreement is breached and
 - Problematic and high risk behavior is demonstrated
- Notify policy and the Director of Professional Standards immediately if a child is abused during parish activities.

THE DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS MUST:

- Discuss the situation with the parish priest and the Bishop
- Make contact with the Offender and arrange to meet with them, their family, partner
- Inform the parish priest that an offender intends to worship in a parish
- Outline the process and discuss a worshipping agreement with the Offender and parish priest
- Complete a risk assessment
- Identify appropriate restrictions to be observed
- Determine suitability of parish
- Prepare a draft worshipping agreement, with consideration given to:
 - Children in a parish
 - Offence or offending history and associated risks
 - Living arrangements and family support
 - Intended church involvement
 - Parole conditions and police reporting and
 - Mental health or behavioural issues
- Meet with the Offender, parish priest, support and monitoring person or network to sign the worshipping agreement
- Address any issues that may be present
- Monitor the situation and review as required or after one year.
- Advise the Diocesan Secretary of the worshipping agreement to enable a register to be kept and updates provided to parishes during an interregnum.

THE SUPPORT AND MONITORING NETWORK OR PERSON/S WILL:

- Have completed and be current with Safe Church training
- Be engaged and aware of their responsibilities
- Be non-judgmental
- Be objective
- Provide reassurance and protection to the Offender when others within the parish act adversely towards them or their family
- Be aware of the Offender's parole conditions
- Ensure that the Offender is accountable for their obligations under the Worshipping Agreement
- Be aware of any rehabilitation programmes undertaken while in prison
- Not allow themselves to be manipulated by the Offender
- Be prepared to sit with the Offender in church and escort them to the bathroom (if required)
- Communicate with others in the support network to ensure that someone from the group is always in attendance
- Be able to respond appropriately to inconsistent behaviours (i.e., mental health issues of mediation)
- Have resources at hand for the resolution of issues that arise (i.e., the Offender indicates they want to re-offend)
- Report any concerning behaviours to the parish priest, wardens or Director of Professional Standards

THE WARDENS WILL:

Provide support to the family, parish priest, support and monitoring person should any issues arise within the parish.

DURING AN INTERREGNUM

During an interregnum, the Director of Professional Standards, Wardens, Diocesan Secretary will ensure the system is maintained and the new clergy when appointed is briefed on any current worshipping agreements.

The Diocesan Secretary is responsible for ensuring a register of such agreements is maintained and updated as required.

FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS:

If an Offender refuses to enter into a Worshipping Agreement and, as a result places children and other vulnerable persons at risk, they must not attend any other Parish in the Diocese of Bunbury.