



# Our commitment

As the Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle I expect you to place the safety, welfare and wellbeing of every child and vulnerable adult at the centre of everything you do in the name of our church. Each one of us is responsible to ensure we are aware of the signs of abuse, that we know how to respond to a disclosure of abuse and we know how to report our concerns. Most importantly, I require every worker in the Diocese to be prepared, should the situation ever arise, to call out the unsafe or abusive behaviour of colleagues and workmates. The conduct we walk past is the conduct we have condoned.

*+ Bill Wright*

The Diocese is committed to:

- ▶ Fostering communities of safeguarding, including open and respectful communication about issues of safeguarding with individuals, families and groups
- ▶ Upholding the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable adults and seeks to empower them to have their voices heard
- ▶ Training all relevant personnel in safeguarding knowledge and skills including indicators of abuse, supporting people to disclose abuse and reporting abuse
- ▶ Working closely with statutory authorities to report alleged abuse and support them to investigate those allegations
- ▶ Developing our risk assessment and management systems for all diocesan activities and personnel
- ▶ Developing the breadth and depth of our auditing and compliance regimes
- ▶ Implementing and maintaining compliance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.



I call upon each one of you. Every parishioner in our faith communities, each worker in our CatholicCare and other community and family support services, every staff member in our schools and our St Nicholas centres, each cleric and religious conducting ministry amongst us. We must, each one of us, commit ourselves every day, individually and collectively, to safeguard each child and every vulnerable adult with whom we interact. BP BILL WRIGHT

  
 Vicar General  
 Fr Andrew Doohan

  
 Chief Executive Officer  
 Sean Scanlon

  
 Chancellor  
 Fr Matthew Muller

  
 Director  
 Pastoral Ministries  
 Teresa Brierley

  
 Director  
 Catholic Schools Office  
 Gerard Mowbray

  
 Chief Operating Officer  
 Graham Heath

  
 Director  
 CatholicCare  
 Gary Christensen

  
 Director  
 Office of Safeguarding  
 Sean Tynan



## Safety Welfare Wellbeing

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults – particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese as part of our faith communities in parishes, in our diocesan systemic schools, early education centres and out-of-school hours care service, as part of our welfare and community services through CatholicCare and other diocesan ministries.

The office of the Director of Safeguarding has been established by decree, issued by the Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle.

The Office of Safeguarding is an integral part of the Diocese, reporting directly to the Bishop's Office. The Office of Safeguarding is placed outside the Diocese's services, programmes and parishes, overseeing their safeguarding standards in operation.

The Office of Safeguarding works with NSW Police, the Office of the Children's Guardian, the Department of Community and Justice and other statutory authorities and specialist authorities within the Catholic Church in Australia to fulfil its responsibilities and maximise the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

### The Office of Safeguarding supports the parishes of the Diocese:

- ▶ in complying with statutory obligations, diocesan Safeguarding Commitment Statement and policies, procedures and protocols relevant to safeguarding
- ▶ with delivery of mandatory Safeguarding training to all parish personnel (for clergy, religious, paid and unpaid workers)
- ▶ with the provision of an intake service that analyses concerns for children and vulnerable adults, provides advice and support to parish personnel, ensures statutory reporting obligations are met and ensures appropriate follow up to complaints, when warranted
- ▶ by conducting investigations of parish personnel who are alleged to have abused a child or vulnerable adult, or breached their professional standards.