

Advisory Panel – Professional Standards

1.0 POLICY

- 1.1 The Advisory Panel is established by the Archbishop to provide advice to the Archbishop and IPSS on professional standards and safeguarding. This can include advice with regards to critical incidents.
- 1.2 In all decisions and deliberations of the Advisory Panel the best interests of children, young and vulnerable people will be the paramount consideration.

2.0 FUNCTIONS

- 2.1 To advise on the management of professional standards complaints against clergy, religious and lay personnel engaged in Archdiocesan ministry.
- 2.2 To advise on risk management related to the professional standards and safeguarding complaints.
- 2.3 To advise on community standards and expectations in terms of professional conduct and risk management.

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1 The Panel will review and critique existing safeguarding strategies and programs promoting protective and ethical practice towards children, young and vulnerable people by clergy, employees and volunteers of the Archdiocese.
- 3.2 The Panel will explore and critique programs, strategies and other interventions designed to promote the well-being of those affected by sexual abuse against children, young and vulnerable people that the IPSS proposes to develop and/or implement.
- 3.3 The Panel will provide informed advice on the functioning of IPSS including strategic goals and community and parish engagement.
- 3.4 The Panel will provide informed advice and general recommendations when clergy, employees, volunteers and members of religious institutions ministering within the Archdiocese have been accused of abuse or misconduct.
- 3.5 The Panel will review and assess expert advice received by the Archbishop, the Vicar General and the Manager (IPSS) from time to time.
- 3.6 The Panel will invite experts where required to attend Panel meetings to address specific issues.
- 3.7 The Panel will maintain confidentiality in relation to personal details of sexual abuse against children, young and vulnerable people and professional standards matters reviewed by the Panel.



4.0 MEMBERSHIP

4.1 The minimum composition of the Panel will be six persons who collectively provide the expertise, experience and impartiality necessary. Every effort will be made to ensure gender balance in terms of the membership.

4.2 Panel members will be appointed by the Archbishop for a period of three (3) years. Members may be reappointed for a second term. All members will have expertise relevant to the work of the Panel. The membership could include:

4.2.1 A parish priest.

4.2.2 A person from one of the Archdiocesan Agencies dealing with vulnerable people.

4.2.3 A person from a systemic school council.

4.2.4 Three persons from the broader community.

4.2.5 The Manager, IPSS as Executive Officer to the Panel.

4.3 Members will observe the highest standards of ethical conduct declaring any actual or perceived conflict of interest. Membership may be terminated for breach of these standards or conflict of interest.

5.0 MEETINGS

5.1 The Panel will meet quarterly and on other occasions as required either in person or via electronic means.

5.2 The Panel will elect a chair annually from amongst the appointed members.

5.3 A quorum shall consist of the majority of the membership.

5.4 The Manager (IPSS) shall be responsible for preparing papers and briefs and keeping minutes of the meeting.

5.5 A copy of the draft minutes of the meeting and recommendations will be forwarded to the Archbishop as soon as possible after the meeting. The Archbishop alone has the right to make public the matters dealt with in the meetings.

5.6 An annual report of the activities of the Panel will be produced and published on the Archdiocesan website.

