



*This information sheet is for Parishes as it outlines the role of Parish Safeguarding Volunteers.*

## PARISH SAFEGUARDING VOLUNTEER

---

*Children are a gift from God; a gift to be treasured, a gift to be nurtured, a gift to be kept safe.*

*This Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn cherishes the gift of our children and vulnerable people of all ages.*

---

### **Why have a Parish Safeguarding Volunteer?**

The Archdiocese is committed to the implementation of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. Through this commitment, the Archdiocese ensures that a safeguarding culture for children, young and vulnerable people is promoted and modelled at all levels of Church life. Parish Safeguarding Volunteers support their Parish Priest in ensuring that safeguarding vulnerable people is embedded in Parish life.

*Truly children are a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127)*

### **What is the role of the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer?**

- To be an additional point of contact in the Parish on matters relating to the safeguarding of children, young and vulnerable people, complementing the roles of Parish Priest and Parish secretary.
- To assist the Parish in implementing the Archdiocese's safeguarding policies, particularly those with legislative obligations and in support of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.
- To provide advice on how complaints can be made, and forward concerns, relating to the protection and safeguarding of children, young and vulnerable people within the Parish to the Institute for Professional Standards and Safeguarding (IPSS) Manager.
- To ensure the safeguarding of children, young and vulnerable people is a regular agenda item at Parish Pastoral Council meetings.
- To assist the Parish Priest in ensuring safeguarding training is regularly provided to volunteers working with children, young and vulnerable people.
- To ensure the safety needs of children, young and vulnerable people are considered when risk assessments are completed for Parish events.
- To regularly report to the Parish Priest and Parish Pastoral Council and communicate with the wider Parish on safeguarding matters.
- To liaise with School Child Safety Advocates as appropriate.

### **What is NOT expected of the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer?**

The Parish Safeguarding Volunteer does not provide counselling, undertake investigations and/or manage complaints/disclosures from survivors.

### **Who supports the Parish Safeguarding Volunteer?**

The Parish Safeguarding Volunteer is supported by the IPSS Manager, who provides training in safeguarding and child protection. Serious matters are reported directly to the IPSS Manager and/or Police as appropriate.

### **Who would be a suitable Parish Safeguarding Volunteer?**

We are looking for people who:

- Are committed to safeguarding children, young and vulnerable people.
- Have the support of their Parish Priest and Parish Pastoral Council
- Have a sound understanding of the Archdiocesan safeguarding policies and a willingness to uphold the teachings and values of the Catholic Church.
- Have an understanding of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards
- Are good at communicating, can be discreet and maintain confidentiality.
- Have a current WWVP/WWC check, can provide two referees, have read the Archdiocesan Child Protection Code of Conduct and signed the acknowledgement.

*Two Parish Safeguarding Volunteers per parish preferred; at least one female.*