

Safety Agreements Persons of Concern

Anglican Church of Australia – Policy for Safe Ministry in a parish where there is a risk of sexual abuse by a Person of Concern

Person of Concern – Safety Agreements

The Policy

- The purpose of this policy is to help ensure that, where a Person of Concern is currently participating or wishes to participate in the life of a parish, people in the parish are not placed at increased risk of being sexually abused.
- Puts in place a **Safety Agreement** between the Person of Concern, the parish and Director of Professional Standards that puts in place tailored parameters and safeguards for Person of Concern's ongoing participation in the life of the parish.

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The Policy

- Acknowledges the wellbeing of all people including any survivors of sexual abuse.
- Acknowledges the need for inclusion of Persons of Concern in the life of the church.
- Requires the ongoing cooperation of all parties.

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The Process

- STAGE 1 Identify a Person of Concern
- STAGE 2 Notify the Director of Professional Standards
- STAGE 3 Develop an Interim Safety Plan
- STAGE 4 Decide whether to proceed further
- STAGE 5 Conduct the necessary assessments
- STAGE 6 Establish the necessary safeguards
- STAGE 7 Monitor the arrangements made

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A Person of Concern

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- a person who has pleaded guilty to, has been convicted of, or has admitted to having committed, a sexual criminal offence; or
- a person who is currently charged with a sexual criminal offence; or
- a person who has been disciplined or had other action taken against them under a disciplinary or professional standards process of the Church because of Sexual Misconduct, or who has been refused ordination, employment or appointment in the Church because of an adverse risk assessment arising from Sexual Misconduct; or

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- a person against whom allegations of Sexual Misconduct are currently being dealt with under a disciplinary or professional standards process of the Church; or
- a person who has been disciplined by an organisation other than the Anglican Church of Australia for Sexual Misconduct; or
- a person who, as a result of Sexual Misconduct, has received an adverse risk assessment from a professional with appropriate qualifications and experience in accordance with the requirements of another church or a statutory authority; or
- a person who has received or is receiving treatment for disordered sexual behaviour.

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Identifying a Person of Concern

- You may find out about a Person of Concern in your parish:
 - By receiving information from the diocese
 - From the Person of Concern
 - From members of your parish
 - From others

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What to do next

- You **first** step on identifying a Person of Concern is to contact the **Director of Professional Standards** immediately who will direct your parish through the ensuing process.

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Important notes

- Ensure that reviews are conducted before Safety Agreements expire.
- When you leave a parish, ensure any Safety Agreements are handed over appropriately.