

# Supporting a Safe Church — become a subscriber to ACSL

Information Pack  
October 2023



# Overview

From 2024 ACSL will provide a new model of safeguarding services to Catholic organisations, supporting a national approach to safeguarding within our Church to ensure a safe church for everyone.



## The Role of ACSL in the Catholic Church

ACSL promotes and supports a nationally consistent, comprehensive, and sustainable framework for ensuring a safe Church for everyone. It was established following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

All Catholic leaders in Australia, across all ministries, support Pope Francis in his call for greater accountability and transparency in how we protect and support the most vulnerable in our communities.



## Responding to the findings of the Royal Commission

All parts of the Catholic Church have been committed to meeting the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Five years from the final report, the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards underpin our national approach to safeguarding.



## Strengthening the Church's safeguarding culture

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Religious Australia and the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons, with the Board, want to open ACSL's services to organisations beyond the three owner bodies, to continue to promote a national and consistent culture of safeguarding and continuous improvement across the whole Church.



## ACSL 2024

From 2024 ACSL will offer a direct subscription to ACSL for its core services on behalf of the whole Church. Subscribers will also have access to a range of additional professional services.

“From the ordinary life of a diocese in its parishes and seminary, to the training of catechists, teachers and other pastoral workers, the importance of safeguarding minors and vulnerable persons must be the rule for everyone. In this regard, in religious and apostolic life, even cloistered novices must adhere to the same ministerial standards as their elderly brothers and sisters who spent a lifetime teaching the young. - Pope Francis May 2023



# Working together for a safe Church

ACSL is working for everyone in the Church, providing leadership, professional development and support to Catholic organisations across Australia. Together our commitment is to ensure that protecting and supporting vulnerable people is at the forefront of all our work.

- ★ Responding to victims/survivors who contact the 1300 number
- ★ Launching the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards Ed 2
- ★ Developing guidance and training on care of Adults at Risk
- ★ Redeveloping the Australian Catholic Ministry Register
- ★ Managing the National Database of Cases and responding to archival searches and requests
- ★ Developing and implementing the NCSS Self Assessment Portal
- ★ Establishing an independent complaints review mechanism



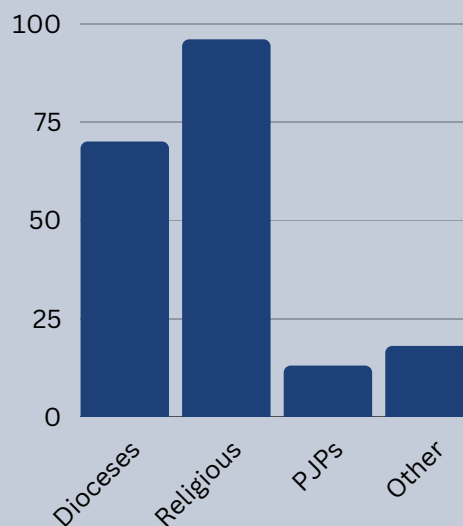
## Professional Development Program

LEADERS PROGRAMS	PARTICIPANTS
28 sessions	745 leaders and personnel
ONLINE SAFEGUARDING WORKSHOPS, WEBINARS AND IN-PERSON TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES	PARTICIPANTS
42 sessions	1911 individuals from across the spectrum of the Church in Australia

## Safeguarding Audits and Reviews

Entities accessing the NCSS Self-Assessment Portal since launch in April 2022

**120** accounts registered on the self-assessment portal



Attendees at portal training information sessions from May 2022 to present

COMPLETED AUDITS AND REVIEWS

2 SCHOOLS



6 DIOCESES + ACBC



27 RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES



# Improving transparency and accountability in safeguarding matters and professional standards

## Complaints, Reviews and Advisory Services



- 4 reviews facilitated
- 1 complaint facilitated
- 1 complaint supported
- 18 complaints assessed and referred since **January 2023**



2,991 subscribers to monthly e-newsletter



105 requests for records since **October 2021**



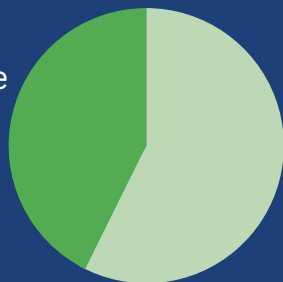
128 enquiries and requests for support since 1 **January 2023**

## Australian Catholic Ministry Register

Since March 2021

82 Catholic entities use the ACMR

Diocese  
35

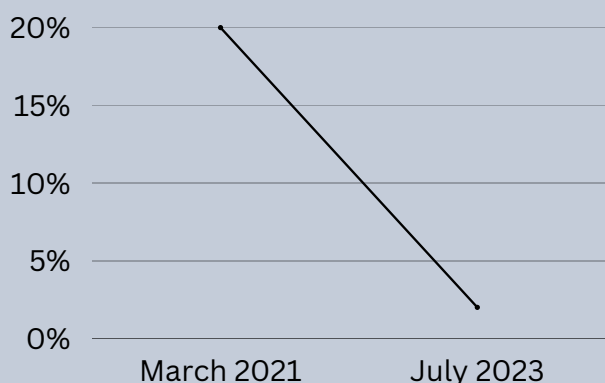


Religious  
47

450 new ACMR ID holders, bringing total numbers to 3,220



7 new entities onboarded into the ACMR, bringing total entities to 82



Reduction of expired WWCCs >20% to <2%



We are committed to the  
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**

Establishing the NCSS Auditor Panel, allowing Church Authorities their choice of safeguarding auditor



Developing of the National Response Framework



Facilitating the development of *Our Common Mission* as a shared Safeguarding Framework



Assisted the 5-year report to the National Office of Child Safety



Developing new NCSS Implementation Guides and parish resources



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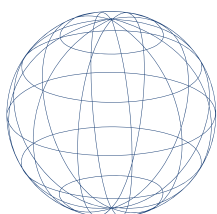
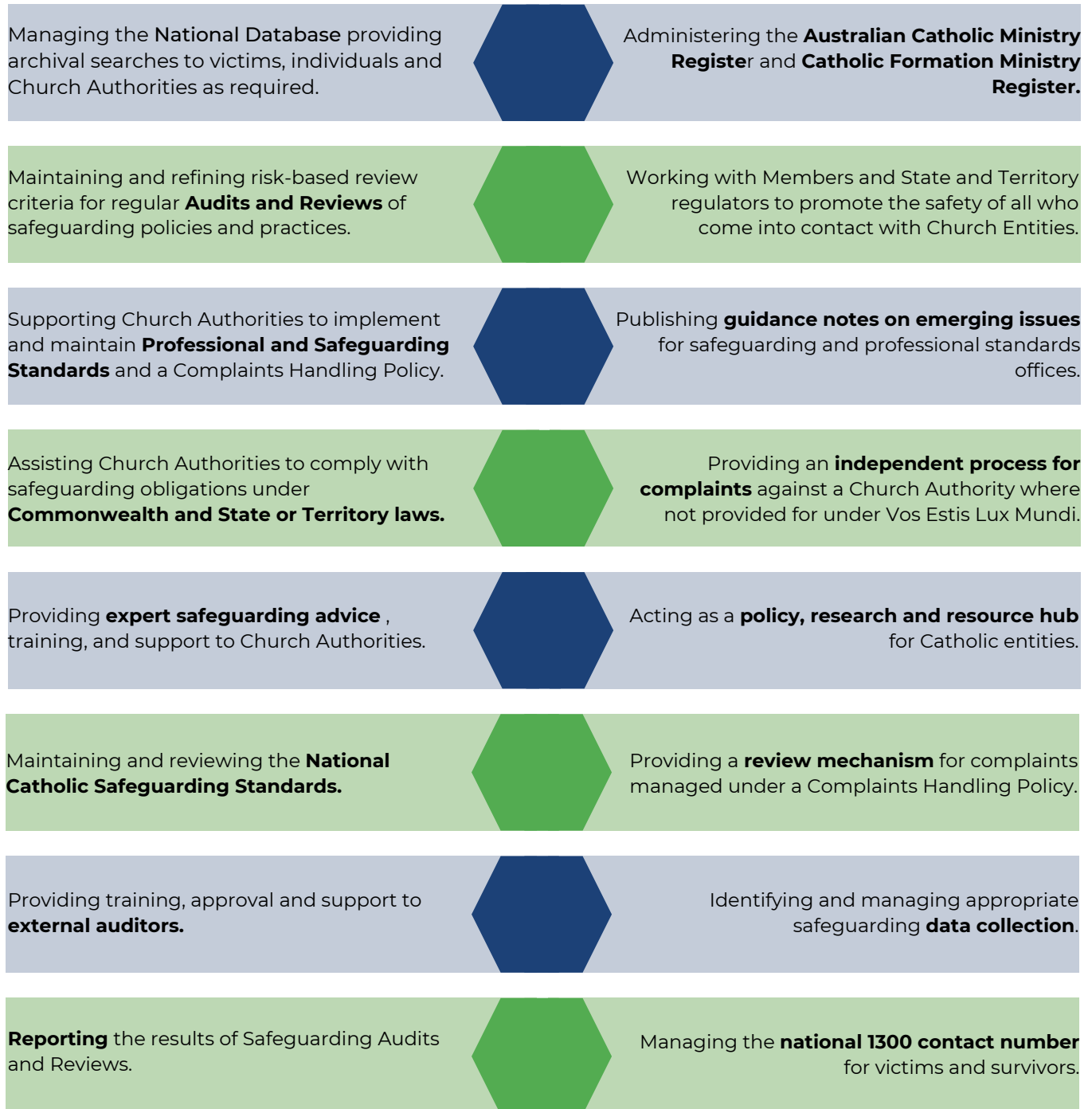


Building a new Subscriber portal



# ACSL's Role in Our Common Mission

Our Common Mission is a code of conduct for everyone involved in Catholic ministry and service. ACSL plays an integral role in assisting adherence to the suite of documents that make up *Our Common Mission*.



ACSL contributes to global thought leadership in the emerging discipline of safeguarding.

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and ACSL's Audit Framework are considered best practice by the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

# When you Subscribe to ACSL you are partnering with us in this important work

## What it means to be a Subscriber to ACSL

Becoming a Subscriber means you are agreeing

- to support the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards;
- to engage in a three-year safeguarding assessment cycle taking in to account responsibilities to regulatory authorities;
- to support the work of ACSL;
- to adopt a Complaints Handling Policy such as the National Response Protocol or Framework; and
- to adopt other ACSL Safeguarding and Professional Standards as they are developed.

## Subscriber benefits

Our Subscribers are partners in our journey to protect the vulnerable in our community and respond to safeguarding risks.

Subscribers also receive the following direct benefits:



Discounted Training Fees



Invitation-only professional networks



Support using the Australian Catholic Ministry Register & Catholic Ministry Formation Register



Safeguarding advice



Audit preparation and scope



Access to ACSL's

- international safeguarding articles
- on-demand webinars
- guidelines, practice notes
- training presentations
- monthly updates with new resources
- e-learning reports



# When you Subscribe to ACSL you are partnering with us in this important work

## Our Common Mission

By subscribing to ACSL you are supporting the Catholic Church to:



Speak with authority, credibility, and authenticity on its commitment to the safety of children and adults at risk.



Provide clear expectations around what practical actions are required to uphold a safeguarding culture in Church Authorities and entities.



Provide a consistent and transparent mechanism for accountability in how we support survivors of abuse.



Ensure operational independence from any Church Authority, when managing safeguarding complaints against Church Authorities and conducting reviews on behalf of Church Authorities.



Provide expertise and resources that model evidence-based best practices and trauma-informed care.



Support individual Church Authorities and entities to meet both moral and regulatory obligations.



Improve the safeguarding skills of Church Authorities and entities in preparation for audits.



Identify and raise awareness amongst members of emerging areas of risk within the life of the Church and work collaboratively to develop appropriate responses.

“

*..be gentle in your actions, bearing one another's burdens (cf. Gal 6:1-2), without complaining, but considering that this moment of reparation for the Church will give way to a further moment in the history of salvation. The living God has not exhausted his sources of grace and blessing! Let us not forget that the wounds of the Passion remained on the body of the risen Christ, no longer as a source of suffering or shame, but as signs of mercy and transformation.*

*Pope Francis, May 2023*

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# Subscription details

ACSL's subscription model recognises that each Church Authority and Catholic Entity has different structures and safeguarding needs. Supporting ACSL as a subscriber takes into account both the risk profile and financial circumstances of your entity. The Member organisations are encouraging a 3-year subscription commitment to ACSL.



## Open Subscription Plan for other organisations 2024-2026

SUBSCRIBER PLANS	VALUE
PEAK BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS	\$795. p.a.
VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS	\$120 p.a.
INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION	\$75 p.a.

## Additional Safeguarding Services

Services provided on a full cost recovery basis to Subscribers include:

### SERVICES

Leaders and Professional Development Programs

Complaint Management for Church Authorities

Complaint Investigations for Church Authorities

Complaint Reviews under Safeguarding Professional Standards

ACSL Review and Audit Services

ACSL Validation for External Safeguarding Audits

Research Projects and Data Analysis

Join us in this important work today.