

Categorisation of entities applying the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

Categorisation for entities

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards are to be applied to all Catholic entities, ministries and organisations.

Catholic entities, ministries and organisations vary, not only in terms of their structures and governance, but also their level of engagement with and focus on ministry with children. In recognition of this variance across entities, CPSL has developed a three-tiered categorisation approach to the application of the Standards.

The categorisation applies at the Church Authority level, not at an individual ministry or activity level.

Category One - Working with Children

All Criteria and Indicators Apply

The Church Authority has governance responsibilities for activities and/or ministries that work with children

Work with children means being engaged in activities and/or ministries with children where contact would be reasonably expected as a normal part of the activity and/or ministry and the contact is not incidental to the activity. "Work" includes an activity and/or ministry undertaken by all types of Church personnel - clergy, seminarians, deacons, candidates for religious life, religious, employees, volunteers, contractors and unpaid workers. This category includes, but is not limited to, activities such as children's liturgy; education activities for children including playgroups, parent support groups, pre-school programs, primary and secondary schools; recreational activities including children's clubs, camps or sporting activities involving children; youth ministry and volunteers under 18 years of age assisting with activities or events.

Category Two - Contact with Children

Orange and Purple Criteria and Indicators Apply

The Church Authority has governance responsibilities for activities and/or ministries that involve contact with children

Contact with children means being engaged in activities and/or ministries that involve, or may involve, contact with children which would be described as incidental to the activity. "Incidental" includes where contact with children is not core to the activity. This category includes but is not limited to activities such as home visiting where the purpose of the visit is to engage with adults but children may be present; providing adult-focused services and/or activities where parents may bring their children on occasions and advocacy campaigns where images of children are used.

Category Two may also apply where Church Authority A has formal arrangements in place with Church Authority B for the governance, management and oversight of Church Authority A's work with children. For example, where a small religious institute (Church Authority A) does not have an Australian-based major superior and has a formal arrangement with an Australian bishop (Church Authority B) to work with children in a specific location within his diocese - the formal arrangement needs to specify that the members of that religious institute are, for the purposes of child safeguarding, considered as personnel of the diocese and as such must comply with all requirements of the diocese which reflect the criteria and indicators of Category One. The religious institute must separately demonstrate its compliance with the criteria and indicators of Category Two.

Category Two also applies where a Church Authority has no governance responsibility nor engagement in activities and/or ministries that work or have contact with children, but do have either a history of complaints and/or claims made against them for historical child sexual abuse or they are currently managing complaints and/or claims of historical sexual abuse.

Category Three - No Contact with Children

Purple Criteria and Indicators Apply

The Church Authority has no governance responsibility nor engagement in activities and/or ministries that work or have contact with children

The Church Authority and related entities do not engage in activities and/or ministries that involve either work or contact with children.

