

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

ALIGNMENT OF NCSS AND THE NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE 2021 – 2030

The National Office for Child Safety (NOCS) was established in July 2018 in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (The Royal Commission). NOCS sits within the Attorney-General’s Department. On a federal level, NOCS is responsible for the development and implementation of the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse. The Council for Australian Governments (COAG) has endorsed the Strategy and each state and territory leads the application of the Strategy in their own jurisdiction.

What is the National Strategy?	The National Strategy is a strategic framework, which sets up a nationally coordinated and consistent way to prevent and better respond to child sexual abuse in all settings.
Why does Australia have a National Strategy?	The National Strategy was a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It is a whole-of-nation policy to create consistency in preventing and responding to child sexual abuse throughout the country.
What is the vision of the National Strategy?	The vision of the National Strategy is <i>‘All children and young people are protected and safe from sexual abuse. Victims and survivors are supported and empowered’</i> .
What is the objective of the National Strategy?	The objective of the National Strategy is to <i>‘reduce the risk, extent and impact of child sexual abuse and related harms in Australia’</i> .
Who is the National Strategy for?	<p>The National Strategy is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • victims and survivors of child sexual abuse of all ages • children and young people • families, kin and carers • communities • organisations and governments <p>We all have a role to play in protecting children and young people.</p>
What is the National Action Plan?	The National Action Plan is the practical strategy for the Federal Government to implement the National Strategy and responds to a number of specific recommendations from the Royal Commission.
What does the National Strategy mean for my organisation?	<p>All children and young people have the right to feel safe and be protected from harm and every organisation working with children is part of this national effort.</p> <p>ACSL’s role is to help Catholic entities and organisations create and maintain a safe and nurturing environment for all who engage with the Catholic Church in Australia. The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) provide a framework for Catholic Church entities to promote the safety of children and adults at risk. They outline the policies and activities that will prevent, respond to, and support reporting of concerns regarding child abuse. By committing to implement the NCSS, every Catholic entity can ensure they are playing their part in the national framework for better protecting the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people.</p>

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

ALIGNMENT OF NCSS AND THE NATIONAL STRATEGY TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE 2021 – 2030

Do the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards align with the National Strategy?

Yes. The National Strategy outlines five major themes to improve Australia’s child safeguarding. The five themes are reflected throughout the 10 interconnected NCSS and can also be specifically mapped on to themes of the National Strategy:

Theme 1: *Awareness raising, education and building child safe cultures*

This theme aligns with all NCSS 1 - 10

Theme 2: *Supporting and empowering victims and survivors*

This theme aligns with NCSS 2, 6 & 7

Theme 3: *Enhancing National approaches to children with harmful sexual behaviours*

This theme aligns with NCSS 7

Theme 4: *Offender prevention and intervention*

This theme aligns with NCSS 6

Theme 5: *Improving the evidence base*

This theme aligns with NCSS 9