

# Supporting a Safe Church — become a subscriber to ACSL

Information Pack  
2024



# 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.

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*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



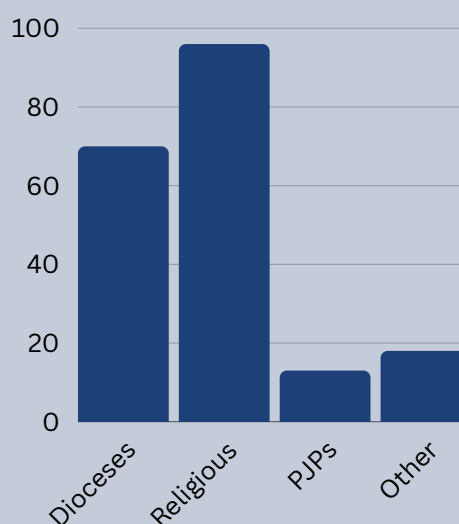
## Professional Development Program

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**



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



Developing new NCSS Implementation Guides and parish resources



Building a new Subscriber portal

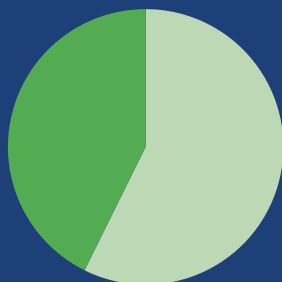


## Australian Catholic Ministry Register

Since March 2021

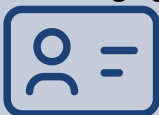
**82** Catholic entities use the ACMR

Diocese  
35

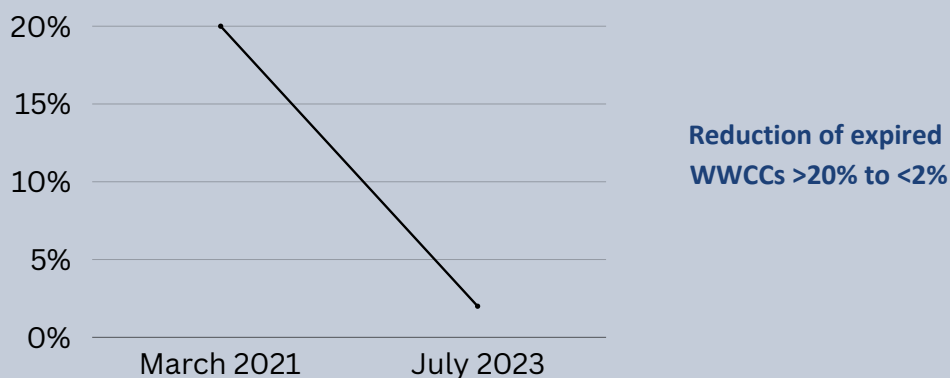


Religious  
47

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



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



# 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*.

Managing the **National Database** providing archival searches to victims, individuals and Church Authorities as required.

Administering the **Australian Catholic Ministry Register** and **Catholic Formation Ministry Register**.

Maintaining and refining risk-based review criteria for regular **Audits and Reviews** of safeguarding policies and practices.

Working with Members and State and Territory regulators to promote the safety of all who come into contact with Church Entities.

Supporting Church Authorities to implement and maintain **Professional and Safeguarding Standards** and a Complaints Handling Policy.

Publishing **guidance notes on emerging issues** for safeguarding and professional standards offices.

Assisting Church Authorities to comply with safeguarding obligations under **Commonwealth and State or Territory laws**.

Providing an **independent process for complaints** against a Church Authority where not provided for under Vos Estis Lux Mundi.

Providing **expert safeguarding advice**, training, and support to Church Authorities.

Acting as a **policy, research and resource hub** for Catholic entities.

Maintaining and reviewing the **National Catholic Safeguarding Standards**.

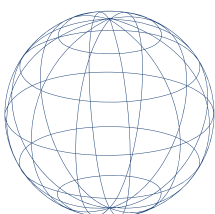
Providing a **review mechanism** for complaints managed under a Complaints Handling Policy.

Providing training, approval and support to **external auditors**.

Identifying and managing appropriate safeguarding **data collection**.

**Reporting** the results of Safeguarding Audits and Reviews.

Managing the **national 1300 contact number** for victims and survivors.



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.

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*..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*

”



# 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.

ACSL is funded through subscriptions from Dioceses, Religious Institutes, MPJPs and Catholic Organisations and Individuals.



## Subscription Plan for Religious Institutes 2024-2026

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES SUBSCRIBER PLANS	VALUE
MORE THAN 10 MEMBERS	\$70 p.a. per member
FEWER THAN 10 MEMBERS IN AUSTRALIA	\$200 p.a. (flat fee)

## 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:**

Complete the details on the next page to sign up as an ACSL Subscriber.



# ACSL Subscriber Registration Form

Please select the level of subscription which best reflects your organisation or individual circumstances

## RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES SUBSCRIBER PLANS

### VALUE

### PLEASE SELECT THE RELEVANT CATEGORY

MORE THAN 10 MEMBERS

\$70 p.a. per  
member

FEWER THAN 10 MEMBERS IN AUSTRALIA

\$200 p.a. (flat fee)

## OTHER ORGANISATIONS - SUBSCRIBER PLANS

### VALUE

### PLEASE SELECT THE RELEVANT CATEGORY

PEAK BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS

\$795. p.a.

VOLUNTEER ORGANISATIONS

\$120 p.a.

INDIVIDUAL SUBSCRIPTION

\$75 p.a.

\*GST applicable if not a member of the Catholic GST Religious Group

## Your organisation's information

Registered business name

ABN

Are you a Member of the Catholic GST Religious Group

Yes

No

Name and title of the leader of your organisation

Leader's email address

Name and title of the safeguarding contact for your organisation

Safeguarding contact's email address

Your organisation's best email address for general subscriber  
correspondence

P.T.O

# ACSL Subscriber Registration Form

Billing information

Billing contact person

Address

Billing email address

**Please email your completed registration form to [info@acs ltd.org.au](mailto:info@acs ltd.org.au)**

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GPO Box 5110, Melbourne VIC 3001  
T: 1300 603 411 E: [info@acs ltd.org.au](mailto:info@acs ltd.org.au) W: [www.acs ltd.org.au](http://www.acs ltd.org.au)  
ABN: 11 616 062 714