

The Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle has an abiding commitment to promote the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults — particularly those who participate in the life of the Diocese as part of our parish communities, in our diocesan system of schools, St Nicholas early education centres and out-of-school hours service, as part of our welfare and community services through CatholicCare and other diocesan ministries.

The Office of Safeguarding was established by Bishop William Wright, the former Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle and is an integral part of the Diocese, reporting directly to the Bishop's Office.

The Office of Safeguarding works with NSW Police, the Office of the Children's Guardian, the Department of Communities and Justice and other statutory authorities and specialist authorities within the Catholic Church in Australia to maximise the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults across our Diocese.

The Office of Safeguarding is positioned outside of the Diocese's services, programmes and parishes, to both ensure that our Catholic Church's safeguarding standards are being complied with and also, to support every worker to undertake their role in a way that is professionally safe and supportive of our safeguarding obligations.

As a volunteer in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese you have an obligation to place the safety, welfare and wellbeing of every child and vulnerable adult as a core tenant of your volunteerism with the Diocese.

This means committing ourselves, individually and collectively, to safeguard each child and every vulnerable adult with whom we interact. Each one of us is responsible to ensure we are aware of the signs of abuse, that we know how to respond to a disclosure of abuse, and we know how to report our concerns. All volunteers with the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle will be expected to undertake safeguarding training. Actively participating in the training is the first step in ensuring you have this knowledge.

Importantly, each and every one of us should be prepared, should the situation ever arise, to call out the unsafe or abusive behaviour of colleagues and those who we are working with.

If you believe the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child or vulnerable adult is being compromised or is at risk of being compromised, it is important you report your concerns. As a volunteer of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle you are obligated to report your concerns.

For more information on your reporting responsibilities please visit the [Office of Safeguarding website](#).

Detailshere:

P: 4979 1390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm)

E: child.protection@mn.catholic.org.au

W: www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au