

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF RIVERINA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Anglican Diocese of Riverina is committed to the standard of love proclaimed and lived by Christ; Christian love seeks the best for others in a safe environment.

This standard of Christian love is expected in the lives of all clergy and church workers. These people must agree to abide by the standard of behaviour contained in our code of conduct "Faithfulness In Service". This code prohibits all forms of inappropriate, abusive and exploitative behaviour towards children and adults.

Faithfulness in Service is available for viewing by following this link <http://www.anglican.org.au>

Making a Complaint

Complaints of inappropriate behaviour on the part of clergy or church workers may be reported to Reverend Peter Barnett contact number 0402102008 the Director of Professional Standards. We are committed to resolving all complaints as quickly as possible for the sake of all involved parties.

Professional Standards Director

All complaints received are taken seriously and will be referred to the Director of Professional Standards.

If the Director feels that the matter should be dealt with by the police or DOCS he will refer it on to be dealt with by these authorities. If it is a matter to be dealt with by our process he will investigate and decide that the complaint is able to be dealt with by mediation and/or counselling OR that the complaint is of a more serious nature and will be referred to the Professional Standards Committee for further investigation.

The Professional Standards Committee

The role of the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) is to investigate complaints, attempt to resolve those complaints either by conciliation or referral to the Professional Standards Board. The Committee may also decline to investigate complaints, which it deems to be vexatious, false, misconceived or trivial.

The Committee may make recommendations to the Bishop-in-Council regarding changes to the Ordinance or to any policy or procedure that relates to the Ordinance. The Committee also has the power to recommend suspension or the issuing of a prohibition order in accordance with the Ordinance.

The Professional Standards Board

The Professional Standards Board (PSB) inquires into and determines matters referred to it by the Professional Standards Committee. If the PSB determines that there has been a breach of the Code of Good Practice, the Board may make recommendations to the Bishop. The PSB may recommend a range of responses depending on its assessment of the gravity of the matter.

The Professional Standards Board now services all three dioceses in the Tri-Diocesan partnership with additional members of the Board coming from the Bathurst and Riverina Dioceses.

The Professional Standards Reference Group

This Group is responsible for the review, operation or amendment of the Code of Good Practice, which is mandatory for all church workers in the diocese. The Group also considers matters referred to it by the Bishop from time-to-time.

All church workers in the Diocese are bound by the Diocesan Code of Good Conduct. If the Code is breached a complaint may be made under the Diocesan Professional Standards Ordinance 2004. The Ordinance sets out the procedures for handling such complaints. Both the Ordinance itself and a short summary are available through the below links. Complaints about a breach of the Code should be directed to the Professional Standards Director, Reverend Peter Barnett.

Making Churches Safe for Children

We are committed to making churches safe places for children. All people who have ministry-contact with children in churches in the Riverina Diocese have complied with the government requirements for child-safety. Police checks are mandatory for all clergy.

All new clergy licence in the Diocese is accompanied by a covenant, which expresses the commitments and accountabilities that are being made in that particular ministry.

The Diocesan Code of Good Practice must be acknowledged as the standard adopted by all paid employees and all licensed clergy and lay people.

THE SAFE CHURCH TRAINING AGREEMENT (SCTA)

Our Diocese is a member of the SAFE CHURCH TRAINING AGREEMENT. This an ecumenical agreement between many denominations in NSW that ensures a common agreed level of training in child protection. A number of people in our Diocese have been trained and are accredited to train others in creating child-safe church environment.

The SCTA is a service to ensure and facilitate quality Safe Church (i.e. duty of care, child protection, safe leaders, and safe programs) awareness training in Australian Churches. The SCTA is not a product, but rather a mechanism to facilitate Safe Church training.

The SCTA fits within the structures of the National Council of Churches in Australia, but with much wider representation than the formal membership of the Council.

The SCTA members send their volunteers and paid leaders to SCTA endorsed Safe Church workshops, which are nationally recognised by SCTA Members. All SCTA Safe Church workshops are presented by SCTA Endorsed Training Partners.

SCTA members pay an annual membership fee, to enable the employment of the SCTA Unit to manage and facilitate the agreement. Please note: The membership fee does not include the cost of sending volunteers to courses.

To ensure high quality training, a set of National Standards for Safe Church Programs has been developed. These standards are used to endorse the programs and the process for training workshop presenters.

Given the ongoing nature of training, all persons who attend SCTA Safe Church Workshops will be entered into the web based resource Safety Management Online, provided by ChildSafeTM, an already widely used on-line system for risk management. This training information system will provide information about when and what type of training people have attended in Australia.

A SCTA unit has been established with the function of facilitating the endorsement process, communication of course times and dates, liaison with Members, updating Members on legislative changes, and general administration of the SCTA.

The SCTA recognises that many Christian organisations (churches) already have their own training programs. The SCTA is not seeking to replace these. It is not a program in itself, rather it seeks to utilise the good work done by these groups by facilitating the sharing of their resources across the wider Christian community.

The SCTA is also designed to augment existing programs by facilitating their implementation, ensuring that training.

Our Diocese SCTA is available at our website anglicanriverina.com