



<b>SAFE COMMUNITIES: PROTECTING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULT POLICY</b>		Document #	Level: Tier 1
		Prepared By: CO	Date Prepared:
Effective Date: 18 October 2017	Revision # 1	Reviewed By: Business Manager	Date Reviewed:
Compliance: Aged Care Act 1997 (Cth) Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (Cth) Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (Tas) Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997 (Tas) Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013 (Tas) Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (Tas)		Approved By: Archbishop of Hobart	Date Approved: 18 October 2017

### Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are protected from harm while participating in activities or receiving care and services provided by the Catholic Church in Tasmania. This is to be achieved principally by ensuring workers and volunteers are appropriately screened, trained and supervised when working with children and vulnerable people, and through the nurturing of organisational cultures that are inherently committed to safety.

### Scope of Application

This policy applies to all members of the Archdiocese of Hobart and its associated agencies including: Archbishop's Office, Parishes, Church Office, CatholicCare Tasmania, Centacare Evolve Housing, Catholic Education Tasmania and the Catholic Development Fund.

### Policy

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is also the foundation of all the principles of the Church's social teaching. Catholic organisations operating in Tasmania are united by a recognition of the inherent value of the human person from conception to natural death. The Catholic community in Tasmania plays a significant role in promoting environments that nurture the wellbeing of all persons but in particular children and vulnerable adults, and is committed to providing safe and supportive places and programs for them.

Screening strategies will include:

- Working with Vulnerable People checks
- National Police Criminal History Checks
- Work History and reference checks
- Right to work in Australia checks
- Statutory Declarations (as required).

This policy specifically commits all these organisations to ensuring:

- A shared culture of safety for children and vulnerable adults

- Systems and processes are in place which provide a safe environment for all in their care
- The effective implementation of safe strategies and practices to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm
- Disclosures and/or concerns of abuse are reported, monitored, and responded to throughout Tasmania in a timely manner and in accordance with legislation.

### **Related Documents**

Professional Boundaries Policy  
Risk Management Policy  
Safe Communities Framework  
Whistleblower Policy  
Workplace Behaviour Policy

### **Changes to this policy**

The Archdiocese will review this policy from time to time and updates are available on the website.

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