



Catholic Diocese  
of Sandhurst

## REPORTING ABUSE

The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst (The Diocese) is committed to the protection of children, young people and adults at risk and the prevention of all forms of abuse, the Diocese has a zero tolerance to abuse.

### Victoria Police

**If you suspect an adult is at risk of harm or in immediate danger** (an adult at risk is any person over the age of 18 years, who is at an increased risk of experiencing abuse or exploitation, including by virtue of their age, disability, diminished capacity, cognitive impairment, cultural background, life or personal circumstance) you should contact the Police on 000 (emergency services) immediately. Also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator (0438 951 010) or [childsafety@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:childsafety@sandhurst.catholic.org.au) for support and advice.

**If you suspect a child or young person** (any person under the age of 18 years) is at risk of harm or in immediate danger or you witness an act of child abuse, contact the Police on 000 (emergency services) immediately. Also contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator (0438 951 010) or [childsafety@sandhurst.catholic.org.au](mailto:childsafety@sandhurst.catholic.org.au) for support and advice.

Alternatively, you can contact the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCITs) located across Victoria. SOCITs provide a specialist response in relation to sexual offences and child abuse. Website: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/sexual-offences>

SANO Task Force investigates past abuse that has occurred in religious and non-government organisations.

Telephone: 1800 110 007

Email: [sanotaskforce@police.vic.gov.au](mailto:sanotaskforce@police.vic.gov.au)

### Abuse allegation or complaint in relation to a priest or other member of the clergy, an employee, volunteer, or a layperson

If you wish to make an allegation of abuse or complaint in relation to sexual, physical, spiritual, and/or emotional abuse against a priest or other member of the clergy, an employee, volunteer, or a layperson of The Diocese then you can contact the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Diocese. Telephone: MOB 0438 951 010.

Email: [childsafety@sandhurst.org.au](mailto:childsafety@sandhurst.org.au)

The Diocese has a legal responsibility under the Reportable Conduct Scheme (<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme/>) to report suspected child abuse or child-related misconduct of priests, clergy, employees and volunteers to the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP). All alleged misconduct or behaviour that places children at risk

of harm will be taken seriously and will be independently investigated and/or referred to Victoria Police. The Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Diocese provides support and advice to parishes in relation to handling their legal responsibilities under the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

Telephone: MOB 0438 951 010

Email: [childsafety@sandhurst.org.au](mailto:childsafety@sandhurst.org.au)

### **The protection of children and young people within a family context**

As adults, we have a legal, moral, and ethical responsibility to protect children from harm and report abuse in all contexts. You should contact Child Protection, if you have formed a reasonable belief that a child or young person has experienced, is experiencing, or is at risk of child abuse within their family. Please contact the Child Protection office in your region – if you are unsure which regional office to contact, please make a call to any of the regional telephones below, and you will be directed to the appropriate region.

- East Division (Wangaratta, Wodonga region) 1300 360 391
- North Division (Greater Bendigo region) 1300 664 977
- After Hours Child Protection Emergency Service 13 12 78

### **Pathways Victoria**

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 Pathways Victoria is the Catholic Church's model for the independent investigations of allegations of abuse. Pathways Victoria has three distinct functions: engagement and support for people, responding to allegations of abuse and resolution of matters including monetary payments. For further information and contact details please see <https://www.pathwaysvictoria.com/>

### **National Redress Scheme**

The National Redress Scheme provides support to people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. On 1 July 2018, the National Redress Scheme commenced, with survivors of child sexual abuse able to approach the Scheme at any time until 30 June 2027. Under the Scheme, applications for redress are made by independent assessors who decide on the appropriate levels of financial and other support, such as counselling services. The Catholic Church and other institutions participating in the Scheme will meet the costs of redress that the Scheme determines.

Knowmore is an independent service giving free legal advice to assist survivors of abuse by providing them with information and advice about the justice and redress options that may be available to them. National Redress Scheme website: <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>  
Telephone: 1800 737 377

Knowmore website: <http://knowmore.org.au/>

Telephone: 1800 605 762

### **Pastoral Support**

Spiritual support and guidance is available to individuals and at a parish level by contacting the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Diocese.

Telephone: MOB 0438 951 010



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<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>New Process</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Next Review</b>
1.0	8/05/2019	Child Safety Officer	New Process on website	8/05/2021
<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Revised By</b>	<b>Description of Revision</b>	<b>Next Review</b>
1.1	9/12/2021	Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Diocese	Update contact details	9/12/2023
1.2	24/05/2023	Safeguarding Co-Ordinator of the Diocese	Include 'adults at risk'	24/05/2025