

Child protection and your parish

Fr Jim Monaghan

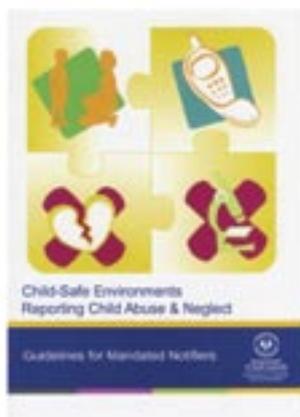
Child Safe Environments Induction – all volunteers

With Whyalla Catholic Parish completing the induction of 200 parish volunteers, we've had the opportunity to refine the induction package to make it more effective. The new package is now available for parishes to use. You can obtain it from Whyalla via e-mail or snail mail, and you can present it either as a PowerPoint presentation using your laptop computer and data projector, or as a talk given by a parish leader. Three parishes have already obtained the package.

Child Safe Environments Training

Parish volunteers whose ministry is with children and young people.

Whyalla Catholic Parish will shortly commence providing this training, which runs for 90 minutes. It's designed for ministers of children's liturgy of the word, altar server training, play group leaders, catechists for sacraments and Sunday RI – anyone whose ministry is with children and young people. As soon as we've completed it in Whyalla, we will organise for it to be available in each parish.



Catholic Church Police Checks

It's time to be checking our parish "Location Register", to ensure that our list of police-checked parish personnel is up to date.

As things stand at present, each paid staff person - priest, parish pastoral associate, and office worker - and each volunteer whose ministry has anything to do with children, needs to have a police check. In this we are at present slightly different from our neighbouring Adelaide Archdiocese, where every parish volunteer must have a police check. Here in Whyalla our Parish Pastoral Council members are completing their Catholic Church Police Checks.

The parish "Location Register" comes from the Location Procedure Manual. It's simply a template where we enter the name of each person as their police check comes through,



together with the date for renewal – which is three years. The Location Register also enables us to record the departure of a volunteer, eg through moving away, death or resignation. We can also associate volunteers to the parish Register who have done their Catholic Church police checks through other Catholic agencies, such as the school or Centacare.

After June 30, the Police Checks Unit will be conducting an audit of parishes to assist everyone to be compliant with the policy. Don't get too worried – I'm assured it will be a "user-friendly" audit! – but it would be just as well to have our records up to date when the unit calls.



Natasha, Bernard & Betty Siebert

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