

New Child Protection information and training now available for our parishes

1.5 hours CSE covers volunteers whose ministry is directly with children

- by Fr Jim Monaghan and Deacon Gary Stokes



Child Protection Council

As part of our Implementation of the Policy for the Care, Wellbeing and Protection of Children and Young People across our Diocese, we are now able to obtain the appropriate information and training for all our parish volunteers whose ministry is directly with children.

By now your parish will be quite familiar with the 15 minute basic training in Child Safe Environments (commonly combined with basic OHSW training) which covers *all* volunteers in parishes.

The new information and training is for Children's Liturgy of the Word leaders, Altar Server trainers, YCS and youth group adults, RI catechists, and all whose ministry in the parish is directly with children. The information and training is based on the State Government Child Safe Environments Guidelines booklet and incorporates information regarding Professional Boundaries which also guides our teachers in both State, Catholic and other Independent schools. The information has been specially adapted by Ms Teresa Lynch and the Adelaide Child Protection Office for use in our parishes, takes 1.5 hours, and will be presented to parish groups by government approved trainers from Centacare Catholic Family Services.

Of course, if in the last three years a particular volunteer has already done the 7 hour Child Safe Environment training or the 3 hour refresher training, then they don't need to attend the 1.5 hour information and training session. A volunteer in this situation just needs to bring a copy of their certificate for the 7 hour or refresher training to the parish office to be retained with the Child Protection records of the parish.

To organise the 1.5 hour information and training session in your parish or group of parishes, please phone Ms Anna Jacobs at Centacare in Whyalla, on 86404900.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct is now ready for all our parish volunteers. This simple but inspiring code will help each minister understand more deeply the dignity of their role, and the dignity of the children and young people of their parish. Vicariates have been given copies, or you can find it in the How To Guides which each Parish Priest and Pastoral Associate have been given. As volunteers complete the 1.5 hour information and training session they are encouraged to further demonstrate their commitment by signing the Code of Conduct.

Checklist of progress:

In your parish, by now:

- all volunteers in positions of esteem and trust should have completed a Catholic Church Police Check
- all volunteers, in any role, should have completed the 15 minute training in Child Safe Environments
- a Child-Safe Contact Person would have been appointed
- records of the above should be kept up to date in the parish office
- Child Protection would be on the agenda of each Parish Pastoral Council meeting
- The Child Protection Charter, and the contact numbers for Towards Healing and SA Police, are displayed in the porch of your church
- Child Protection Sunday would be observed each September.
- Churches and parish activities are becoming child-friendly environments and experiences.

May Mary, Mother of the Church and Seat of Wisdom, guide us with her prayers and love, as we plan the care, wellbeing and protection of God's children.