

# Diocese of Armidale

## *Child Safe Parish Communities*

*a simple guide*

*for*

*Parishioners, Employees & Volunteers*



Based on the Diocese of Armidale *Child Safe Parish Communities* booklet

## *Our focus is on protection*

The opportunity to work with children, young people and vulnerable adults is a privilege. This guide will assist to clarify appropriate conduct to ensure that children and vulnerable adults are protected from harm.

### *Some examples of child related activity in a parish*

- ☑ Children's liturgy
- ☑ Youth groups
- ☑ Altar servers supervision
- ☑ Special Religious Education (Catechetics)
- ☑ Youth choirs or music groups
- ☑ Junior Vinnies



### *What is acceptable behaviour*

- ☑ Treating people with respect
- ☑ Providing a welcome, inclusive, safe environment
- ☑ Respecting differences
- ☑ Reporting concerns
- ☑ Being transparent in your actions



## *What is unacceptable behaviour*

- ☒ Shaming, humiliating, belittling or degrading children
- ☒ Using inappropriate, offensive or discriminatory language
- ☒ Doing things for a child that they are able to do for themselves such as assistance with toileting or changing clothes
- ☒ Taking a child to your home or sleeping in the same room or bed as a child
- ☒ Taking a child in your motor vehicle
- ☒ Smacking, hitting or physically assaulting a child
- ☒ Seeking to make special friends with a child
- ☒ Giving children secret gifts or cards without parental permission
- ☒ Being alone in a room with a child
- ☒ Touching a child in a sexual manner or asking them to touch you
- ☒ Photographing children without parental permission
- ☒ Showing pornographic material in any format
- ☒ Making friends with children on social media, contacting them by phone messages or emails
- ☒ Allowing unsupervised access to your phone or computer

## *A simple checklist*

### *As an employee or volunteer in a child related activity*

- Have you completed a Working With Children Check?
- Have you been given a copy of the Diocesan Child Safe Parish Communities guidelines?
- Do you understand acceptable and unacceptable behaviours?

### *Within your parish*

- Do altar servers have an area separate from that of the priest vesting area to prepare for Mass?
- Is there at least one adult (parent) present to supervise the altar servers before and after Mass?
- Do you use the two adult supervision best practice model?
- Are parents asked to supervise their children at Mass and parish events?
- Have parents been asked to accompany children to the parish toilets and not allow them to go unsupervised
- Do adults know not to be alone in a room with children?
- Have adults been advised not to give children gifts, cards or to make special friendships that could be seen as grooming the child?
- Are you aware of abuse prevention strategies?
- Are you making a commitment to ensure that our church is a safe community for all?