

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY

RESPONDING TO REPORTABLE CONDUCT POLICY



CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF
BROKEN BAY

CONTENT

This document contains the Diocese of Broken Bay (**Diocese**) Policy on Responding to Reportable Conduct.

APPLICATION & SCOPE

This Policy applies to all clergy, employees, contractors, volunteers, work experience students and trainees of the Diocese including those working in or visiting its Parishes, and any other individual who holds, or is required by the Diocese to hold, a Working With Children Check (**WWCC**) Clearance for the purpose of engagement with the Diocese (**Workers**). Where an Agency within the Diocese (such as Catholic Schools or CatholicCare) has its own policy, the relevant Agency policy will apply to Agency Workers.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Policy is to:

- contribute to a framework for creating safe and supportive environments throughout the Diocese, particularly for children (under 18 years of age);
- identify the systems that the Diocese has in place regarding Reportable Conduct; and
- support and guide Workers to meet their legislative obligations under the Children's Guardian Act 2019 (NSW) (**Children's Guardian Act**).

This Policy identifies the way in which the Bishop, Safeguarding Office, Parish Priests and Workers are to work together to comply with the requirements in relation to Reportable Allegations and Reportable Convictions under the Children's Guardian Act. The Policy identifies the need to:

- Ensure that everyone within the Diocese understands what they are required to do in order to protect children from harm by reporting Reportable Allegations and Reportable Convictions.
- Recognise the role of Workers reporting Reportable Allegations and Reportable Convictions to the Safeguarding Office as an important strategy for actively monitoring the safety and wellbeing of children.

Recognise the role of the Safeguarding Office in receiving reports from Workers regarding Reportable Allegations and Reportable Convictions and making appropriate reports to the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian (**Children's Guardian**) as an important strategy for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children.

DEFINITIONS

Child:	An individual under the age of 18 years.
Children's Guardian:	The NSW Office of the Children's Guardian.
Reportable Allegation:	An allegation that a WWCC Holder has engaged in conduct that may be Reportable Conduct (Refer to Section 2 of this Policy).
Reportable Conduct:	(Refer to Section 4 of this Policy).

Reportable Conviction:	A conviction in NSW or elsewhere, of an offence involving Reportable Conduct (Refer to Section 3 of this Policy)..
Suspected Person:	A person who is suspected to have engaged in conduct that may be Reportable Conduct or to have been convicted of an offence involving Reportable Conduct.
Workers:	All clergy, employees, contractors, volunteers, work experience students and trainees of the Diocese including those working in or visiting its Parishes, and any other any individual who holds, or is required by the Diocese to hold, a WWCC Clearance for the purpose of engagement with the Diocese.
WWCC Clearance:	A WWCC clearance and has the same meaning as set out in the WWCC Policy.
WWCC Holders:	Individuals who hold, or are required by the Diocese to hold, a WWCC Clearance for the purpose of engagement with the Diocese. Individuals who are exempt from holding a WWCC Clearance, as set out in the WWCC Policy are not WWCC Holders.

POLICY

The Bishop of our Diocese is the ‘head of entity’ for the purpose of the Children’s Guardian Act. This with responsibility is delegated to the Vicar General, the Director of CatholicCare, and Director of Catholic Schools Broken Bay. The Director, Diocesan Safeguarding Office provides strategic safeguarding consultation and leadership across the three Agencies. The Bishop, assisted by his delegates, has a legal obligation to report to the Children’s Guardian, Reportable Allegations and Reportable Convictions.

The Diocese acknowledges its responsibility to establish and maintain appropriate procedures that support the Bishop, his delegates and Workers in fulfilling their reporting obligations.

All WWCC Holders within the Diocese have a legal obligation to report to the Safeguarding Office Reportable Allegations and Reportable Convictions. All other Workers within the Diocese are required to make a report to the Safeguarding Office if they become aware of allegations or complaints involving inappropriate or unsafe conduct towards or in the presence of Children involving a Worker.

This Policy also addresses the role of the Safeguarding Office, on behalf of the Bishop, in investigating and making findings in relation to Reportable Allegations and Reportable Conduct and in managing the risks involved in such investigations.

1. RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CHILDREN’S GUARDIAN ACT

1.1. General Provisions

‘Relevant entities’ in NSW are required to comply with the Reportable Conduct Scheme set out in **Part 4 of the Children’s Guardian Act**, by reporting to the Children’s Guardian in respect of certain types of conduct by WWCC Holders and certain types of convictions affecting WWCC Holders.

The Diocese is a ‘relevant entity’ to which the Reportable Conduct Scheme in the Children’s Guardian Act applies.

The Children's Guardian Act also requires WWCC Holders of relevant entities to report to the head of their entity certain types of conduct by a WWCC Holder and certain types of convictions affecting WWCC Holders.

1.2. Application of the Children's Guardian Act to WWCC Holders

The Reportable Conduct Scheme applies to all WWCC Holders.

This is a very broad definition that covers many persons who would not traditionally be considered employees, such as contractors, volunteers, and clergy and religious appointees and visitors exercising public ministry. It also includes some persons who do not have a role that has any face to face or physical contact with Children.

Advice should be sought from the Safeguarding Office if there is any uncertainty about whether or not a person comes under the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

1.3. Head of a relevant entity for the purpose of the Children's Guardian Act

The Bishop is the 'head of entity' for all parishes and agencies in the Diocese. The Bishop has delegated his responsibilities under **Part 4 of the Children's Guardian Act** to the Vicar General, Director of CatholicCare, and Director of Catholic Schools Broken Bay in respect of the parishes and other agencies of the Diocese.

In practice, each Safeguarding Office carries out the obligations of the Bishop and his delegates under the Children's Guardian Act relating to parishes and agencies and deals directly with the Children's Guardian on behalf of the Bishop and his delegates. The Director, Diocesan Safeguarding Office plays a pivotal role in overseeing the reporting and communication with the Children's Guardian of behalf of the Bishop and the delegates.

1.4. Reporting obligations of the head of the entity in accordance with the Children's Guardian Act

The Safeguarding Office must, on behalf of the Bishop, notify the Children's Guardian immediately of any Reportable Allegation or Reportable Conviction involving a WWCC Holder of which it becomes aware. There are strict timeframes for reporting, and on-line reports must typically be filed within seven (7) business days of the Safeguarding Office becoming aware of the Reportable Allegation or Reportable Conviction.

1.5. Reporting obligations of WWCC Holders in accordance with the Children's Guardian Act

WWCC Holders must notify a Parish Priest or the Safeguarding Office immediately of any Reportable Allegation or Reportable Conviction involving another WWCC Holder of which they become aware.

1.6. General reporting obligations of Workers

The Diocese requires all Workers (whether or not they hold a WWCC Clearance) to notify a Parish Priest or the Safeguarding Office immediately of all allegations or complaints involving any inappropriate or unsafe conduct towards or in the presence of Children involving a Worker of which they become aware, regardless of whether the Worker believed to have engaged in the conduct of concern is a WWCC Holder, or whether the conduct involves a Reportable Allegation or Reportable Conviction

2. REPORTABLE ALLEGATIONS

A Reportable Allegation means an allegation that a WWCC Holder has engaged in conduct that may be Reportable Conduct, whether or not the conduct is alleged to have occurred in the course of the employee's employment. The threshold for reporting a Reportable Allegation is lower than what is required to make a finding of Reportable Conduct. If an allegation is, on its face, a Reportable Allegation, it must be reported.

2.1. Current allegations

All Reportable Allegations must be reported to a Parish Priest or the Safeguarding Office immediately to ensure compliance with the Children's Guardian Act.

All Reportable Allegations must be reported by the Safeguarding Office to the Children's Guardian as soon as practicable, and no later than seven (7) business days after the Safeguarding Office becomes aware of the Reportable Allegation or Conviction.

2.2. Historical allegations

Conduct that would constitute a Reportable Allegation or a conviction that may be a Reportable Conviction, which occurred prior to the commencement of the Children's Guardian Act, is captured by the Children's Guardian Act. On that basis, historical Reportable Conduct must also be reported to the Safeguarding Office and the Children's Guardian in accordance with this Policy.

3. REPORTABLE CONVICTIONS

A Reportable Conviction means a conviction in NSW or elsewhere, of an offence involving Reportable Conduct. It includes a finding of guilt even if the court did not proceed to a conviction.

All convictions that are considered to be Reportable Convictions must be reported by WWCC Holders to a Parish Priest or the Safeguarding Office immediately.

All convictions that are considered to be Reportable Convictions must be reported by the Safeguarding Office to the Children's Guardian immediately, and no later than seven business days after the Safeguarding Office becomes aware of the Reportable Allegation or Conviction.

From time to time, a Worker may become aware that another Worker has been convicted of a Child-related offence. Depending on the nature of the conviction and the status and role of the Worker, such a conviction may be a Reportable Conviction for the purposes of the Children's Guardian Act.

Where the Safeguarding Office receives information about a conviction that is vague or incomplete (for example where there is a rumour or other unsubstantiated report of a historical conviction), it may be difficult to determine whether or not the conviction is a Reportable Conviction. Options include seeking clarification from the relevant employee or taking other steps to verify the truth or otherwise of the information. In any case, if there is a possibility that the conviction is a Reportable Conviction, the information must be reported to the Children's Guardian.

4. REPORTABLE CONDUCT

4.1. Reportable Conduct

Reportable Conduct includes the following conduct whether or not a criminal proceeding in relation to the conduct has been commenced or concluded:

- (a) a sexual offence committed against, with or in the presence of a child;
- (b) sexual misconduct with, towards or in the presence of a child;
- (c) ill-treatment of a Child;
- (d) neglect of a Child;
- (e) an assault against a Child;
- (f) an offence under s 43B of the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW) for failing to reduce or remove the risk of a Child becoming a victim of abuse;
- (g) any offence under s 316A of the *Crimes Act 1900* (NSW) for concealing a Child Abuse Offence; or
- (h) behaviour that causes significant emotional or psychological harm to a Child.

4.2. Reportable Conduct exemptions

Reportable Conduct does **not** extend to:

- (a) conduct that is reasonable for the purposes of the discipline, management or care of Children, having regard to the age, maturity, health or other characteristics of the Children and to any relevant codes of conduct or professional standards;
- (b) the use of physical force that, in all the circumstances, is trivial or negligible, but only if the matter is to be investigated and the result of the investigation recorded under workplace employment procedures;
- (c) conduct of a class or kind that the Children's Guardian has ruled does not need to be notified; and
- (d) Only the Bishop's Delegates may apply to the Children's Guardian to make a determination that certain conduct of a class or kind arising at the parishes and/or agencies need not be notified.

5. DIOCESE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

5.1. Notification to Parish Priest or Office for Safeguarding

The Diocese requires that all Workers must immediately report all Reportable Allegations, Reportable Convictions, and all other allegations, complaints or convictions involving any inappropriate or unsafe conduct towards or in the presence of Children by another Worker, to a Parish Priest or to the Safeguarding Office. If the report is received by a Parish Priest, the Parish Priest must then immediately notify the Safeguarding Office.

If that conduct potentially constitutes a Serious Indictable Offence or a Child Abuse Offence, the Worker has a legal obligation to report to the NSW Police in accordance with the Diocese's **Guidelines for Reporting Offences under the Crimes Act 1900**. In practice, where the Safeguarding Office is notified of a Serious Indictable Offence or a Child Abuse Offence, the Safeguarding Office will assist the Worker to, or make a report to, the NSW Police on behalf of a Worker and notify the Worker once the report has been made.

Workers who are Mandatory Reporters should also consider, and if appropriate discuss with the Safeguarding Office, whether they should also make a report regarding a Child at

Risk of Significant Harm to the Child Protection Helpline in accordance with the Diocese's **Risk of Significant Harm - Mandatory Reporting Policy**.

No person should attempt to undertake their own investigation before reporting the matter to a Parish Priest or the Safeguarding Office.

5.2. Notification by Parish Priest to the Office for Safeguarding

Upon notification of a Reportable Allegation, Reportable Conviction, or any other allegation, complaint or conviction involving any inappropriate or unsafe conduct towards or in the presence of Children by another Worker, the Parish Priest must report the matter to the Safeguarding Office, regardless of whether:

- (a) there has been a formal complaint or allegation from the alleged victim or their parent or guardian; or
- (b) the relevant allegation has been made anonymously or confidentially.

A non-exhaustive list of matters that must be reported by Parish Priests includes:

- (c) allegations of inappropriate or unsafe conduct towards or in the presence of Children relating to clergy or religious appointees or visitors to the Diocese;
- (d) allegations of inappropriate or unsafe conduct towards or in the presence of Children relating to themselves;
- (e) allegations of inappropriate or unsafe conduct towards or in the presence of Children relating to Workers;
- (f) historical allegations involving any of the above categories;
- (g) allegations or complaints involving any of the above categories where the Child concerned may have 'consented' to the alleged conduct; and
- (h) allegations or complaints involving any of the above categories where there may be insufficient detail about either the Suspected Person or alleged victim to identify them.

If the Parish Priest has concerns about whether the relevant allegation, conduct or conviction is reportable, they should contact the Safeguarding Office. Parish Priests should also bear in mind that they may have additional reporting obligations and must ensure that they consider compliance with the Diocese's **'Guidelines for Reporting Offences under the Crimes Act 1900'** and the **Risk of Significant Harm - Mandatory Reporting Policy**.

No Parish Priest should attempt to undertake their own investigation before reporting the Alleged Conduct or Conviction to the Safeguarding Office.

5.3. Notification to the Children's Guardian

The Safeguarding Office must determine whether the alleged conduct or conviction is required to be reported to the Children's Guardian. In making this determination, the Safeguarding Office may seek advice from the Children's Guardian or the Diocesan General Counsel.

If the alleged conduct or conviction is reportable to the Children's Guardian, the Safeguarding Office must notify the Children's Guardian immediately and no later than seven (7) business days after it becomes aware. A notification to the Children's Guardian must be made online, using the 7-Day Notification Form on the Children's Guardian website. The notification must include (but not be limited to) the following information:

- (a) that the Safeguarding Office has received information about a Reportable Allegation or a Reportable Conviction;
- (b) details of the conduct that is the subject of the report;
- (c) the name of the employee and their date of birth and WWCC number;
- (d) the contact details for the 'relevant entity' being the Diocese and the 'head of the entity' being the Bishop. Given that the Office for Safeguarding has delegated authority from the Bishop to report to the Children's Guardian, the notification should also include contact details for the Safeguarding Office;
- (e) whether any notification has been made to police or to the Department of Communities and Justice and any report reference number;
- (f) the nature of any initial risk assessment and/or risk management action being undertaken by the Safeguarding Office, Diocese, Parish or Agency;
- (g) the names of any other relevant entities with which the employee is employed or engaged; and
- (h) any other information requested or prescribed by the Children's Guardian.

If the Safeguarding Office decides that the alleged conduct or conviction is not reportable to the Children's Guardian, or if the Children's Guardian indicates the matter does not fall within its jurisdiction, the Safeguarding Office will determine whether by legislation or its discretion an Internal Investigation or report to NSW Police (see below) should still be completed. Depending on the circumstances, the Safeguarding Office may choose to seek advice from persons including the Bishop, Vicar General, Director, Diocesan Safeguarding Office or Diocesan Legal Counsel.

In responding to Reportable Conduct matters, the Safeguarding Office must have regard to the requirements for the management of safeguarding matters generally, as set out in the **Diocesan Complaints Handling Policy**.

5.4. Determine immediate actions in relation to the Suspected Person

The Safeguarding Office must promptly consider the necessary action required to manage risks associated with the Suspected Person. If the Safeguarding Office has reported to NSW Police in relation to the allegations, clearance should be obtained from the NSW Police before any engagement with the Suspected Person. Once the Safeguarding Office has clearance to take actions in relation to the Suspected Person, they should promptly identify and assess the risks to the safety and wellbeing of a Child or Children posed by the Suspected Person in their role and responsibilities (including any role or responsibilities involving children outside of their engagement within the Diocese).

Once the potential risks have been identified, the Safeguarding Office will discuss the matter with appropriate persons, including the Bishop or Vicar General, to determine the appropriate action to mitigate those risks.

Factors to be considered in making this decision include, but are not limited to, the:

- nature and seriousness of the allegation;
- vulnerability of the Children that the Suspected Person would be in contact with in their position or duties;
- nature of the Suspected Person's position (e.g. level of contact with Children);
- level of supervision available for the Suspected Person;

- availability of support for, and supervision/monitoring of, the Suspected Person on a day-to-day basis if their duties are unchanged; and
- Suspected Person's disciplinary history.

In making a determination as to the appropriate action to mitigate risks, the Safeguarding Office must take into consideration both the needs of the Child (and/or the complainant) and the Suspected Person.

Action to address risks may involve:

- removing the Suspected Person from their position or duties where they may have contact with a Child or Children; or
- suspending the Suspected Person from their position or altering duties so that they are not permitted to have contact with Children, pending the outcome of a more thorough investigation.

Depending on the circumstances and following consideration of civil or canonical legal advice if they consider it desirable to obtain such advice, the Bishop, Vicar General, or the Office Director, Parish Priest in consultation with the Vicar General, may exercise their discretion not to stand the Suspected Person aside.

Under canon law, a member of clergy or religious appointee may be stood aside in order to prevent scandal, to protect the freedom of witnesses, and safeguard the course of justice (Canon 1722). Depending on the circumstances, the Bishop and/or the Vicar General will consider any imposition or prohibition regarding the Suspected Person's place of residency during the course of the investigation.

A decision to suspend or remove a Suspected Person on the basis of a risk assessment should not influence the investigation, particularly the findings of an investigation. It merely reflects the seriousness of allegations or risks that have been identified pending a determination of facts by the investigator. Until the investigation is completed and a finding is made, any action, such as restricting a Worker's duties, is not considered to be an indication that the alleged conduct by the employee did occur.

Before taking action in relation to any Suspected Person (such as altering duties or standing the person aside from their position pending investigation of the allegation), the Suspected Person must be notified of the allegation.

5.5. Internal Investigation pursuant to the Children's Guardian Act

The Bishop must, immediately after receiving information about a Reportable Allegation or a Reportable Conviction, investigate or arrange for an appropriately qualified external investigator to investigate the matter. In practice, the Safeguarding Office will investigate or appoint an investigator to investigate the matter.

The Safeguarding Office or investigator appointed by the Safeguarding Office, must (on behalf of the Bishop) make a finding that the conduct in question is or is not, Reportable Conduct, on the balance of probabilities. The Safeguarding Office or investigator may take into account:

- the nature of the reportable allegation and any defence; and
- the gravity of the matters alleged.

The Safeguarding Office or investigator must also consider whether the conduct in question is in breach of established standards within the Diocese, and may have regard to:

- (a) professional standards;
- (b) codes of conduct, including any professional or ethical codes; and/or
- (c) accepted community standards.

5.6. Investigation by the NSW Police

If the matter has also been reported to the NSW Police and the Police have advised that any concurrent investigation by the Diocese is likely to prejudice the police investigation or a court proceeding, the Safeguarding Office must advise the NSW Children's Guardian:

- (a) that the Diocese will not conduct its investigation pending the conclusion of the police investigation; and
- (b) of the steps it is taking to manage risks in the interim.

If any internal investigation by the Safeguarding Office is suspended as a result of there being a concurrent police investigation into the matter, the Diocese will be exempt from providing an interim report to the NSW Children's Guardian on its investigation, for a period of 30 days after the suspension has ended.

5.7. Outcome and Reporting

Within 30 days of receipt of the information about Reportable Conduct or Conviction, the Safeguarding Office must:

- (a) provide the Children's Guardian with a report on its investigation and outcome (**Entity Report**); or
- (b) provide the Children's Guardian with an interim report on its investigation, outlining the further action it intends to take; or
- (c) a reason for not providing a final Entity Report and an estimated time frame within which the report will be provided; and
- (d) undertake and document a Current Risk Assessment outlining the strategies and actions for managing risk.

The Safeguarding Office must include the following in an Entity Report:

- (a) information about the facts and circumstances of a Reportable Allegation and the findings that the Safeguarding Office/ investigator made about the Reportable Allegation, including whether it is considered to be Reportable Conduct, the evidence considered, and the basis on which a finding was made;
- (b) information about the conviction considered to be a Reportable Conviction, including whether or not the Safeguarding Office / investigator have determined that the conviction is a Reportable Conviction;
- (c) a copy of any written submissions provided by the Suspected Person;
- (d) information about what action has been or will be taken in respect of the Suspected Person, and also in relation to any changes to systems or policies;
- (e) copies of any documents / evidence relevant to the report about the conduct and the investigation into it.

The Suspected Person may, during the investigation or determination, provide a written submission to the Safeguarding Office/ investigator, in relation to the conduct in question in order to determine what disciplinary action should be taken against them (if any).

5.8. Actioning the outcome

While the Safeguarding Office / investigator will make a finding of fact (i.e. did the conduct occur on the balance of probabilities), the person making decisions as a result of the investigator's report and findings is the Bishop's Delegates, or in some cases, the Bishop.

5.9. Procedural fairness

In responding to Reportable Conduct matters, the Safeguarding Office must have regard to the Diocesan principles of procedural fairness and review the complaint as set out in the **Policy: Complaint Handling; and Protocol: Managing Unreasonable Complaints**.

5.10. Requests from the Children's Guardian

The Safeguarding Office must comply with any requests for information from the Children's Guardian relating to procedures in place at the parishes and agencies to prevent, respond to, and handle Reportable Conduct, as this is a requirement under the Children's Guardian Act.

In responding to any requests for information, the Safeguarding Office must have regard to relevant legislation including Chapter 16A of the *Children and Young Person's Care and Protection Act 1998* and *Children's Guardian Act*.

If the Safeguarding Office is concerned about any request for information, it should seek advice from the Diocesan General Counsel.

6. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

6.1. Prescribed bodies

In the context of fulfilling obligations under the Reportable Conduct Scheme (detailed at **clause 1 of this Policy**), there are circumstances that may allow for information to be obtained from or shared with other agencies or bodies.

Chapter 16A of the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (*Care and Protection Act*) deals with the exchange of information between certain bodies that have responsibilities relating to the safety, welfare or wellbeing of children or young persons. Chapter 16A allows for 'prescribed bodies' to exchange information despite other laws that prohibit or restrict the disclosure of personal and private information, for example, that would normally be prohibited from being shared under the Privacy Act.

The Regulations specifically refer to designated agencies and education and care services which would include Catholic Schools Broken Bay and CatholicCare as prescribed bodies allowed to exchange information under the Care and Protection Act.

Whilst the definition does not specifically identify the Office of the Bishop, Diocesan entities or Parishes (**Religious Bodies**), prescribed bodies are also defined in the Care and Protection Act and associated Regulations to include any '*organisation the duties of which include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services, or law enforcement, wholly or partly to children*'.

To the extent that religious bodies, including the Office of the Bishop and the Parish, provide any of these services to children, they may be entitled to disclose and obtain information under Chapter 16A.

6.2. Circumstances where information may be obtained by a Religious Body

In fulfilling obligations under the Reportable Conduct Scheme, information may be obtained from other prescribed bodies under Chapter 16A of the **Care and Protection Act** if the Religious Body:

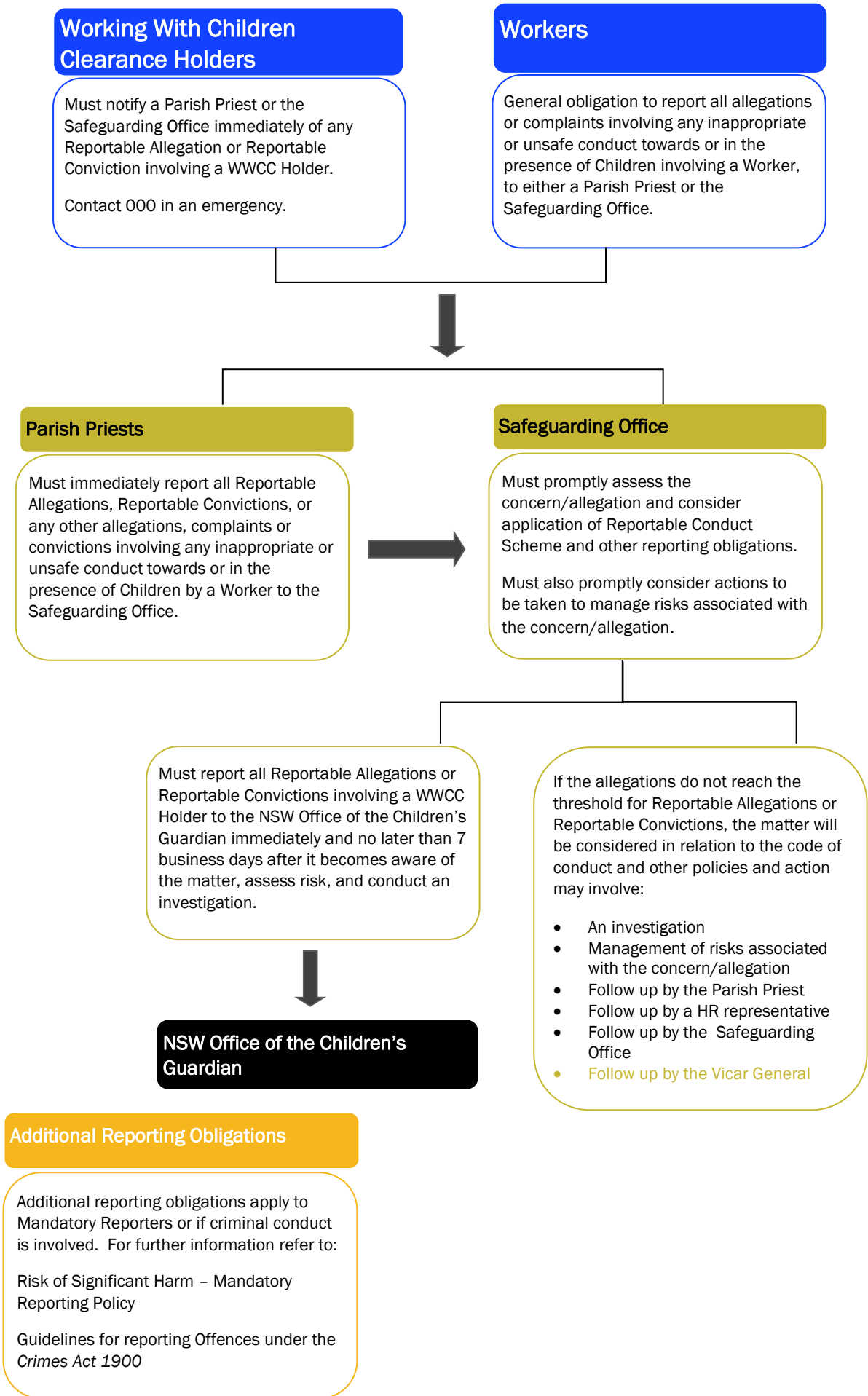
- (a) is making a decision, assessment or plan for a child or class of children in response to concerns about an employee or volunteer who works with children within the religious body, which are or may be reportable allegations; or
- (b) is investigating a reportable allegation against an employee or volunteer who works with children within the religious body; or
- (c) is otherwise managing risk to a child or class of children arising in the religious body's capacity as an employer of a person (including engagement of a volunteer) to work with children; and
- (d) reasonably believes that the information requested can assist to fulfill these obligations.

6.3. Circumstances where prescribed bodies are not required to provide information

There are circumstances whereby prescribed bodies are not required to provide information requested under **Chapter 16A of the Care and Protection Act**. Some examples include where it is reasonably believed that to do so would prejudice or possibly prejudice care proceedings, a coronial inquest or inquiry, contravene any legal professional privilege, endanger a person's life or not be in the public interest.

If you experience difficulties obtaining information you consider falls within the parameters of Chapter 16A of the **Care and Protection Act** to the extent that they relate to fulfilling your obligations under the Reportable Conduct Scheme and this Policy, please contact the Safeguarding Office who may seek advice from the Children's Guardian or the Diocesan General Counsel.

APPENDIX A – RESPONDING TO REPORTABLE CONDUCT FLOWCHART



APPENDIX

Appendix A – Responding to Reportable Conduct Flowchart

REFERENCE

Children’s Guardian Act 2019 (NSW)

Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998

RELATED POLICIES

Policy – Working With Children Check

Policy - Risk of Significant Harm - Mandatory Reporting

Policy – Reporting Offences to NSW Police

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Practice Guide: What Conduct Must be Reported to the NSW Office of the Children’s Guardian?

Reportable Conduct Scheme Fact Sheet

Protocol: Managing Safeguarding Complaints

POLICY REVIEW

Review of this Policy, related forms and resources will be considered following any changes to the Children’s Guardian Act or associated guidelines or undertaken every five years by the Manager of the Office for Safeguarding (Chancery) in consultation with the Diocesan Director of Safeguarding, In House Counsel and the Diocesan Financial Administrator and approved by the Bishop of the Diocese.

REVISION/ MODIFICATION HISTORY

Date	Version	Current Title	Summary of Changes	Approval Date	Commencement Date
26/06/20	1.	Responding to Reportable Conduct Policy	New Policy	Jun 2020	Jun 2020
14/01/21	2.	Responding to Reportable Conduct Policy	Updated	Mar 2021	Mar 2021
15/12/23	3.	Responding to Reportable Conduct Policy	Updated and reviewed	Dec 2023	Dec 2023

APPROVAL DATE/ REVISION SCHEDULE

Approved by: Most Rev Anthony Randazzo, Bishop

Date: 15 December 2023

To be revised: 15 December 2026