



The Archdiocese of Hobart

Child Protection & Intervention Policy and Procedures

INTRODUCTION

The issue of child abuse is a complex problem that has an impact on all areas of society, including church based programs and activities.

The recent Tasmanian Ombudsman Child Abuse Review has led to increased community awareness of the significant number of child sexual assaults and incidents of abuse which occur. It also highlighted the need for the development and implementation of strategies to protect children from abusive situations.

Protecting children from abuse is a responsibility that we must all undertake. Through the implementation of strategies that assist in preventing child abuse from occurring, The Archdiocese of Hobart has taken a pro-active role in relation to child protection and intervention. These strategies will help to foster a safe and positive environment for children and young people to participate in church activities.

In addition, development of Child Protection and Intervention Policy and Guidelines provides the Archdiocese with an excellent risk management tool for developing prevention strategies and for the effective management of child abuse issues within the Archdiocese of Hobart

Information contained in this document will create a framework and provide direction for priests, religious, principals, teachers, staff, volunteers, members and parents of children and young people involved with the Archdiocese of Hobart, and any of its affiliated local and regional organisations. It will help deliver a consistent approach to child abuse prevention at all levels within the Archdiocese of Hobart

POLICY STATEMENT

The Archdiocese of Hobart is committed to ensuring that the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children are maintained at all times during their participation in activities run by the Archdiocese of Hobart and its member bodies. The Archdiocese of Hobart aims to promote a safe environment for all children and to assist all priests, religious, principals, teachers, staff and volunteers to recognise child abuse and neglect and follow the appropriate notification procedures when reporting alleged abuse.

R A T I O N A L E

The focus of the policy and guidelines is the prevention of child abuse in the Archdiocese of Hobart.

This policy and guidelines promote the care and protection of children participating in church activities and provide information and direction for priests, religious, principals, teachers, staff and volunteers and members of the organisation.

This policy and guidelines will assist The Archdiocese of Hobart in establishing coordinated strategies for dealing with the problem of child abuse and neglect in a responsible, effective and consistent manner.

O B J E C T I V E S

Through the development of this policy The Archdiocese of Hobart's objectives are to:

1. provide information to assist priests, religious, staff and volunteers in dealing with all forms of child abuse
2. provide comprehensive guidelines relating to risk minimisation and reporting/ notification procedures
3. provide direction to all priests, religious, staff and volunteers regarding their legal responsibilities under child protection legislation
4. promote and adopt principles for child protection and intervention amongst priests, religious, staff and volunteers and parents of children participating in the organisation's programs and activities.

**S C O P E O F
P O L I C Y**

The Child Protection Intervention Policy and Procedures of the Archdiocese of Hobart are applicable to all priests, religious, management and staff (paid, voluntary, permanent or casual) of the Archdiocese, and its affiliated local and regional organisations.

**I M P L E M E N T A T I O N
O F L E G I S L A T I O N**

In order to implement the child protection legislation and to take a pro-active role in relation to child protection and intervention, the Archdiocese of Hobart will undertake to:

1. implement strategies and procedures that focus on the best interests of children and meet the requirements of child protection legislation
2. promote a safe and supportive environment for all children and young people participating in activities which come under the umbrella of the Archdiocese of Hobart.

3. Increase awareness and emphasise the importance of child protection issues in a church environment to all those involved with the activities of the Archdiocese of Hobart. This includes all priests, religious, staff, volunteers and parents of children participating in the organisation's programs and activities
4. ensure that all priests, religious, staff, and volunteers of the Archdiocese of Hobart are aware of their responsibilities arising from this policy and procedure and the requirement under this policy and procedure, to inform the Archdiocese of Hobart if they have been convicted of a serious sex offence.

EXPECTATIONS

Priests, religious, staff, principals, teachers and volunteers often have a high level of contact with children in the church environment and play a major part in the successful operation of church activities.

Priests, religious, staff, principals, teachers and volunteers are often seen as role models. They have significant influence on the children they come into contact with and therefore have significant responsibilities.

The Archdiocese of Hobart expects that all priests, religious, staff, principals, teachers and volunteers whether paid or unpaid, who participate in organised activities under the banner of the Archdiocese of Hobart will commit to implementing risk management strategies developed by the Archdiocese for child protection and intervention.

**POLICY
REVIEW**

The Archdiocese of Hobart Child Protection and Intervention Policy and Guidelines will be reviewed annually and updated in line with any legislative changes that have significant impact on the manner in which child protection and intervention issues are to be dealt with.



Signed _____ Date 20/9/05

Archbishop of Hobart

Subject:	Child Protection & Intervention Policy	Date of Approval:	September 2005
Contact:	Human Resources Division		
Approving Authority:	Director, Human Resources	Due for Review:	January 2006