



Bishop of Wagga Wagga

just as the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Mark 10:45

4 February 2016

Safeguarding Children Office

The role of Safeguarding Children Officer (SCO) for the Diocese of Wagga Wagga, announced in October 2015, has now commenced. The purpose of this communication is to provide an overview of the role's purpose and approach.

The SCO, Mr Dave Collie, is based at McAlroy House and is commissioned to assist diocesan leaders create a safe environment for children and young people. Meeting our obligations for safeguarding the children and young people with whom we work is both an essential and shared task.

In regard to Child Protection, the Safeguarding Children Officer will collaborate with diocesan leaders to:

- Audit and review whole of diocese practices, policies, procedures and programs
- Develop and support the implementation of a diocesan improvement plan that aligns with the diocesan audit and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
- Support diocesan personnel implement child safe practices

In undertaking this work, it is expected that the SCO will liaise with diocesan leaders, including but not limited to Bishop Hanna, Alan Bowyer (Director of Schools), the Council of Priests, parish priests and administrators, Vianney College, Centacare and the leaders of various diocesan groups working with children e.g. catechists

In addition to local liaison, the SCO will collaborate with state and interstate Chancery representatives, the NSW Catholic Systemic Schools Child Protection Practitioners Group, the Ombudsman and Royal Commission. Considerable work has already been done by these groups which our diocese both contributes to and benefits from.

Taking a preventative approach and building on the existing child safe practices in our diocese to meet the standards we have set for ourselves, and the standards required of us by society, by canon and civil law is the task at hand.

In closing, I offer my thanks for your good will and cooperation in this important work and remind you of the position I have taken with my fellow leaders of the Catholic Church in Australia.

'The leaders of the Catholic Church in Australia commit ourselves to endeavour to repair the wrong of the past, to listen to and hear victims, to put their needs first, and to do everything we can to ensure a safer future for children.' First published TJH Council's submission to Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, September 2013

In Domino

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Bishop, Diocese of Wagga Wagga

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