



Catholic Diocese  
of Sandhurst

## REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst (The Diocese) is committed to the protection of children and young people and the prevention of all forms of child abuse, the Diocese has a zero tolerance to child abuse.

### **Victoria Police**

If you suspect a child or young person is at immediate risk of harm or you witness an act of child abuse dial 000 and report the matter immediately to Victoria Police.

Alternatively, you can contact the Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCITs) located across Victoria. SOCITs provide a specialist response in relation to sexual offences and child abuse.

Telephone contact information is available from the Victoria Police website: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/sexual-offences>

SANO Task Force investigates past abuse that has occurred in religious and non-government organisations.

Telephone: 1800 110 007

Email: <https://www.police.vic.gov.au/sexual-offences>

### **Abuse allegation or complaint in relation to a priest or other member of the clergy, an employee, volunteer or a layperson**

If you wish to make an allegation of abuse or complaint in relation to sexual, physical, spiritual and emotional abuse against a priest or other member of the clergy, an employee, volunteer or a layperson of The Diocese then you can contact the Diocesan Child Safety Officer.

Telephone: (03) 5445 3612

Email: [childsafety@sandhurst.org.au](mailto:childsafety@sandhurst.org.au)

The Diocese has a legal responsibility under the Reportable Conduct Scheme (<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/reportable-conduct-scheme/>) to report suspected child abuse or child-related misconduct of priests, clergy, employees and volunteers to the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP). All alleged misconduct or behaviour that places children at risk of harm will be taken seriously and will be independently investigated and/or referred to Victoria Police. The Child Safety Officer provides support and advice to parishes in relation to handling their legal responsibilities under the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

Telephone: (03) 5445 3612

Email: [childsafety@sandhurst.org.au](mailto:childsafety@sandhurst.org.au)

### The protection of children and young people within a family context

As adults, we have a legal, moral and ethical responsibility to protect children from harm and report abuse in all contexts. You should contact Child Protection, if you have formed a reasonable belief that a child or young person has experienced, is experiencing, or is at risk of child abuse within their family. Please contact the Child Protection office in your region – if you are unsure which regional office to contact, please make a call to any of the regional telephones below, and you will be directed to the appropriate region.

- Hume Division Wangaratta 1300 360 391
- Loddon Mallee Division Bendigo 1300 664 977
- After hours child protection emergency 13 12 78

### Towards Healing

If you have experienced sexual abuse by members of the Catholic Church (outside of The Diocese) you can contact Towards Healing.

Telephone: 1800 816 030

Email: <https://www.catholic.org.au/professional-standards/towards-healing>

### National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme provides support to people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. On 1 July 2018, the National Redress Scheme commenced, with survivors of child sexual abuse able to approach the Scheme at any time until 30 June 2027. Under the Scheme, applications for redress are made by independent assessors who decide on the appropriate levels of financial and other support, such as counselling services. The Catholic Church and other institutions participating in the Scheme will meet the costs of redress that the Scheme determines.

National Redress Scheme website: <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/>

Telephone: 1800 737 377

Knowmore is an independent service giving free legal advice to assist survivors of abuse by providing them with information and advice about the justice and redress options that may be available to them. Knowmore website: <http://knowmore.org.au/>

Telephone: 1800 605 762

### Pastoral Support

Spiritual support and guidance is available to individuals and at a parish level by contacting the Diocesan Child Safety Officer

Telephone: (03) 5445 3612

Version	Date	New Process	Description	Next Review
1.0	8/05/2019	Child Safety Officer	New Process on website	8/05/2021
Version	Date	Revised By	Description of Revision	Next Review