



## Protocol for Disclosure and Management of Known Sex Offenders in a Parish

Approved by: Diocesan Council

06 April 2017

### 1 PURPOSE

In the event of disclosure this protocol has been established to outline the process that needs to be followed when a person in an Anglican Parish in the Diocese of Perth discloses that they have committed sexual abuse or assault.

### 2 SCOPE

- a All Parish Priests in the Anglican Diocese of Perth
- b All Parishes in the Anglican Diocese of Perth
- c Any persons who have committed sexual offences

### 3 THE KNOWN SEX OFFENDER ('THE OFFENDER'):

When an Offender discloses the Parish Priest that they have a history of sexual offending, they must:

- a Meet with the Director of Professional Standards and Parish Priest to discuss matter.
- b View the draft Worshipping Agreement [see Policy 40.6] prepared by the Director of Professional Standards.
- c Provide additional information regarding their offending and reporting requirements,
- d Sign the Worshipping Agreement.
- e Comply with restrictions and conditions of Worshipping Agreement, and
- f Notify Director of Professional Standards or Parish Priest if their situation changes or if they intend to leave the Parish.

### 4 PARISH PRIEST MUST:

- a Advise the Offender that there is a Policy and process in place for people who have committed sexual abuse or assault, and that the Director of Professional Standards has to be involved.
- b Advise Director of Professional Standards that an Offender attends worship and/or is a Parishioner.
- c View draft Worshipping Agreement [see Policy 40.6] prepared by the Director of Professional Standards.
- d Appoint a support and monitoring person or network.
- e Outline support and supervision responsibilities.
- f Advise parish wardens of situation.
- g Provide pastoral care and support.
- h Advise Director of Professional Standards if;
  - i. the Agreement is breached, and
  - ii. problematic and high risk behaviour is demonstrated.
- i Notify Police and Director of Professional Standards immediately if a child is abused during parish activities.

### 5 THE DIRECTOR OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS MUST:

- a Discuss situation with Parish Priest.
- b Make contact with and arrange to meet with the Offender (and their family or partner etc), or



- d Inform the parish priest that an offender intends to worship in a Parish.
- e Outline the process and discuss a worshipping agreement with the offender and parish priest.
- f Complete a risk assessment.
- g Identify appropriate restrictions to be observed.
- h Determine suitability of parish.
- i Prepare draft worshipping agreement, with consideration given to;
  - i. Children in Parish,
  - ii. Offence or offending history and associated risks,
  - iii. Living arrangements and family support,
  - iv. Intended church involvement,
  - v. Parole conditions and police reporting, and
  - vi. Mental Health or behavioural issues.
- j Meet with the offender, parish priest, support and monitoring person or network to sign worshipping agreement.
- k Address any issues that may present.
- l Monitor situation and review as required or after one year.

**6 THE SUPPORT AND MONITORING NETWORK OR PERSONWILL:**

- a Have completed a ChurchSafe workshop.
- b Be engaged and aware of their responsibilities.
- c Be non-judgemental.
- d Be objective.
- e Provide reassurance and protection to the Offender when others within the Parish act adversely towards them or their family.
- f Be aware of the Offender's Parole conditions.
- g Ensure that the Offender is accountable for their obligations under the Worshipping Agreement.
- h Be aware of any Rehabilitation programs undertaken while in prison.
- i Not allow themselves to be manipulated by the Offender.
- j Be prepared to sit with the Offender in church and escort them to the bathroom (if required).
- k Communicate with others in the support network to ensure that someone from the group is always in attendance.
- l Be able to respond appropriately to inconsistent behaviours (i.e. Mental Health Issues or Medication).
- m Have resources at hand for the resolution of issues that arise (i.e. the Offender indicates they want to re-offend).
- n Report any concerning behaviours to the parish priest, wardens or Director of Professional Standards.

**7 THE WARDENS WILL:**

- a Provide support to the family, parish priest, support and monitoring person should any issues arise within the parish.

**8 FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS:**

If an Offender refuses to enter into a Worshipping Agreement and, as a result, places children and/or other vulnerable people at risk, they must not attend any Parish in the Diocese of Perth (Refer Policy 40.6).