



DECREE OF THE BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

06/2019

Decree establishing the Ecclesiastical Office of Director of Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults ('Director of Safeguarding') within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle

The Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle ('Diocese'), having been established by universal law as a Particular Church of the universal Roman Catholic Church, recognises that children (persons less than 18 years of age) are entitled to particular care and protections, as are adults who are rendered vulnerable as a consequence of:

- suffering from a physical disability of sufficient severity as to make that adult dependent on another for assistance in everyday activities and self care; or
- suffering a chronic and persistent mental illness that significantly impedes the adult's competence; or
- having a developmental delay or other cognitive disability to a moderate or profound degree; or
- having become physically or mentally frail as a result of advanced years.

The reasons that motivated this decree are:

1. Children who are sexually abused often suffer serious and long lasting diminution of their ability to fully experience the joy of life and love of God.
2. The Diocese has been the subject of prolonged and detailed public scandal for its historic failures to protect children and has suffered a serious diminution of its capacity to bear witness to the Word of God and undertake good works.
3. The People of God and the wider community demand that the Diocese make a visible, effective and ongoing commitment to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
4. The People of God are determined that what happened before in the Diocese in respect to the sexual abuse of children, will never be permitted to happen again.

Consultations have been held and consent obtained from the College of Consultors (c. 502), Presbyteral Council, Diocesan Leadership Group, and the Diocesan Protection and Safety Council, a specialist lay body I established to give me advice on issues of safeguarding.

I am satisfied that the establishment of the ecclesiastical office of Director of Safeguarding will support the fulfilment of canons 204 §1, 208, 210 and 211.

I decree that the ecclesiastical office of Director of Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults ('Director of Safeguarding') be established within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, in accordance with canons 145 – 157. This ecclesiastical office will fulfil the obligations and rights set out in the diocesan safeguarding charter and the civil law position description for the Director of Safeguarding.

I appoint Sean Patrick Tynan to the ecclesiastical office of Director of Safeguarding Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

This decree abrogates all prior particular law regarding safeguarding matters.

I direct that this decree be published on the website for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle <http://www.mn.catholic.org.au/> which will be presumed the official notification of this action. A petition for revocation or emendation of this decree is subject to canons 1732 - 1739.

This decree to become effective from 27 May 2019 nothing the contrary withstanding.

Given at Hamilton, NSW, on the 24th day of May, 2019.



Most Rev William Wright
Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle



Elizabeth Doyle
Notary