



DECREE OF THE BISHOP OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

07/2019

Decree-Provision

Mandate and Powers of the office of Director of Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults ('Director of Safeguarding') within the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle as particular law for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

Given my decree of 24 May 2019 establishing the Director of Safeguarding as particular law for the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

I decree that the Director of Safeguarding be mandated to:

- 1 Ensure that safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is an integral part of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's culture and daily practice.
- 2 Ensure that the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle adopts best-practice:
 - safeguarding policies, procedures and practices and that they are applied in all diocesan ministries and activities, and
 - healing practices and support services for those affected by historic child sexual abuse.
- 3 Provide expert advice to diocesan leadership in the areas of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, including:
 - contemporary safeguarding methodologies,
 - the regulatory environment and resultant organisational challenges and opportunities,
 - the provision of healing services for survivors, and
 - the current status of inquiries and other issues of concern.

Further, I decree that the Director of Safeguarding be empowered, either directly or by assigning particular roles and responsibilities to personnel assigned to assist the Director of Safeguarding and in consultation with others, to:

- i. Oversight and support the Diocese's parishes, directorates and services in their compliance with:
 - a. statutory obligations to safeguard children and vulnerable adults, and
 - b. safeguarding standards, principles or guidelines promulgated by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference; and
 - c. the Diocese's codes of conduct, policies, procedures and protocols relevant to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- ii. Conduct or oversight and assist in the investigation of Diocesan personnel (inclusive of employed, contracted or voluntary laity, clerics incardinated to the Diocese and other clergy or religious acting as agents of the Diocese) who are alleged to have committed:
 - a. criminal conduct against a child or vulnerable adult, or
 - b. reportable conduct, or
 - c. a breach of professional standards against a child or vulnerable adult.

- iii. Provide personalised healing and support services to survivors of historic child sexual abuse, their partners, parents, children and siblings, in accordance with the standards of the Catholic Church and relevant Diocesan policies and procedures.
- iv. Conduct or oversight and assist in the resolution of complaints made against Diocesan personnel that relate to a child or vulnerable adult, that do not require an investigative response.
- v. Manage uninsured claims brought against the Diocese by persons alleging to have suffered harm as a consequence of being the victim of historic child sexual abuse.
- vi. Oversight and support the management of individuals within the Diocese identified as posing an elevated risk to children or vulnerable adults.
- vii. Manage the Diocese's relationships with:
 - a. statutory authorities and Catholic entities assigned the responsibility to oversight the Diocese's compliance with safeguarding legislation, regulation and standards; and
 - b. Catholic and other religious and community entities responsible for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in their particular entities; and
 - c. statutory authorities and Catholic entities relevant to the provision of redress to and healing services for survivors of historic child sexual abuse.

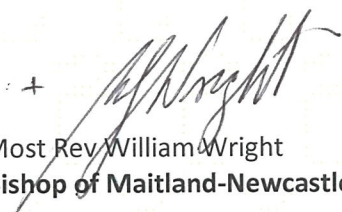
The reasons that motivated this decree are:

1. Children who are sexual 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 makes 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.


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