



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE
Office for Safeguarding Services

2022 External Safeguarding Audit

O'Connor, Marsden & Associates were engaged to conduct an audit of parishes to assess the level compliance with Archdiocesan safeguarding requirements and the support available to parishes to comply with those requirements.

The auditors randomly selected fifteen (15) parishes to participate in the audit. The auditors visited each parish, conducted a site inspection and consulted with Parish Priests and staff. The auditors also administered the Archdiocesan online safeguarding audit tool and criteria, and reviewed Archdiocesan safeguarding policies, procedures and resources.

Key Findings

The key findings of the audit are:

- On average, the sample parishes rated 75% compliant with Archdiocesan safeguarding requirements.
- The internal online safeguarding audit tool is suitable for benchmarking safeguarding requirements and allows for the efficient capture and analysis of compliance data across parishes.
- Archdiocesan safeguarding resources are high quality, accessible and sufficient for parishes to implement Archdiocesan safeguarding requirements.
- Most volunteer Local Safeguarding Representatives and parish staff are dedicated to ensuring their parish complies with Archdiocesan safeguarding requirements.
- Some parishes do not have sufficient capacity to adequately manage Archdiocesan worker accreditation requirements, particular volunteers requirements.
- Systems for managing Archdiocesan worker accreditation requirements could be improved.

Key Recommendations

The recommendation made by the auditors are:

- Parishes need to be more proactive in updating the roles for parish volunteers.
- The Archdiocese should review the recognised volunteer roles, and their respective position descriptions, accreditation requirements and level of contact with children and adult-at-risk.
- The Archdiocese should investigate an IT solution to assist in better managing worker accreditation requirements.
- The Archdiocese should review the monthly HR compliance data report issued to parishes.
- The Archdiocese should investigate a more efficient online safeguarding training solution for volunteers.
- The Archdiocese should review the Local Safeguarding Representative role to enhance the promotional and preventative functions of the role.
- The Archdiocese should establish a forum for Local Safeguarding Representatives to share good practice and resources.

The recommendations have been accepted and work has commenced to address the identified issues.