

Professional Standards Unit

The Missionaries of God's Love Professional Standards Unit is designed to give adequate advice and support to the Safeguarding Coordinator in the event of a complaint, and/or allegation made against a member of the MGL, or someone on the staff, or a volunteer.

The Purpose of the Professional Standards Unit

The purpose of the group is to ensure that the MGL complaints procedure is followed and enacted in a manner which cares for the welfare and safety of the alleged victim and ensures natural justice and charity for the alleged perpetrator.

The Benefits of the Professional Standards

- A quick and thorough response to complaints
- Expertise and consistency in response
- A proactive, comprehensive and restorative response to victims, both children and vulnerable people
- A sharing of wisdom which helps the Safeguarding Coordinator make an objective assessment of situations that arise

Scope of the Professional Standards Unit

The PSU will triage any complaint of serious misconduct in relation to children or vulnerable adults. They will triage the complaint and then initiate any appropriate process, ensuring that the complaints handling procedure is followed from the receiving of a complaint to final outcomes and any disciplinary matters.

The group will sometimes need to consult with appropriate experts in civil law and canon law, as well as professionals in psychology and other disciplines

The group will need to be aware of legal obligations, and collaborate and communicate with relevant professional standards offices, Archdiocesan chanceries, agencies and ministries, the Ombudsman, and child protection agencies, as well as the police when necessary.

Membership

The PSU is comprised of the Moderator of MGL, the Safeguarding Coordinator, and two other persons who have long professional experience in the field of child protection and investigation.

Fr Ken Barker MGL – Moderator MGL

Fr Stephen Fletcher MGL – Safeguarding Coordinator

Kelvin Simon – Child Protection Investigator and Consultant

Julie Bufalo-Long – Intake and Assessment Social Worker Uniting Children and Families ACT