

Safeguarding Committee

Authority

- The Safeguarding Committee is a formally constituted Committee with the Missionaries of God's Love reporting to the Moderator, chaired by the Safeguarding Coordinator
- The Safeguarding Committee has delegated authority to oversee and monitor policies, procedures and practices which safeguard children engaging with the Missionaries of God's love and to ensure safeguarding functions are embedded in the governance structures and practices of the Missionaries of God's Love
- The Missionaries of God's Love Professional Standards Unit (PSU) is an advisory body in handling complaints made in regard to the conduct of an MGL member, staff or volunteer. The PSU is called upon by the Moderator and/or the Safeguarding Coordinator when a complaint has been made and needs investigation. The PSU is a subcommittee of the Safeguarding Committee
- The Safeguarding Committee oversees responses to complaints handled through the PSU.

Membership

The Committee has a maximum membership of eight people comprising:

- The Chairperson who is the Safeguarding Coordinator (Fr Stephen Fletcher MGL)
- Moderator (Fr Ken Barker MGL)
- Educational, Compliance and Risk management coordinators (Fr David Callaghan MGL, Fr Daniel Benedetti MGL)
- An external person with expertise in child protection (Kelvin Simon)
- An external person with Church experience and expertise in drawing up policies and procedures (Selina Hasham)
- An external person with Church experience (Branka van der Linden)

Purpose

- Oversees the effective ongoing implementation of child safeguarding practices, including the Child Safeguarding policy and related procedures and practices, in relation to all children engaged with the Missionaries of God's Love
- Oversees self-auditing of compliance of all houses and missions with the Missionaries of God's Love requirements, in line with the National Safeguarding Standards

- Oversees the work of the functions of the PSU and receives updates on the progress of the handling of cases by the PSU
- Monitors, tracks progress and reviews the Safeguarding Implementation Plan for the Missionaries of God's Love
- Establishes a framework to address how risk management and risk assessment is done and monitors the implementation risk management strategies.

Responsibilities

- Identifying and contributing to the development of a Child Safeguarding Policy, Commitment Statement and appropriate elements of a Code of Conduct
- Contributing to the development of the Missionaries of God's Love's Safeguarding Implementation plan
- Monitoring and tracking progress and regularly reviewing the Safeguarding implementation plan, including the development and implementation of risk assessment and management in all locations and ministries.
- Supporting the Moderator and the Missionaries of God's Love to implement all aspects of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

Term of Office

- Members are appointed for a term of three years, renewable.
- Members are approved by the Moderator of the Missionaries of God's Love
- Gaps in knowledge, skill or background of the Committee are reviewed annually and the Chair makes recommendations to the Moderator for any necessary changes or additions to membership.

Frequency of Meetings

- The Committee meets at least four times per year, but can be more depending on the need
- Five members, including the Chair, is considered a quorum for meetings of the Committee

Decision making

- The Safeguarding Committee exists to provide strategic and skilled guidance and advice to the Moderator and the Safeguarding Coordinator

In matters requiring a decision by the Safeguarding Committee they will seek to achieve consensus. If this is not possible they will decide by a majority of votes of those present