

## Professional Standards

Our Diocese is committed to our pastoral, insurance, legal and duty of care, obligations with the goal that all ministries are spiritually, emotionally and physically safe; based on the premise that Diocesan parishes, ministries and entities should be abuse-free and harm-free, person valuing and respectful spaces for ministry to God's glory.

Standing Committee and Bishop in Council have updated the Diocese of Rockhampton's Safe Ministry documentation and training requirements.

The reasons for these updates are clear:

1. We are committed to the ideals of abuse and harm free ministry, where people are valued and respected.
2. We want to meet the requirements of Government Legislation with regard to Blue Card Checks for those working in our Diocese and especially those working with children and young people, and Police checks for those working with the vulnerable and elderly.
3. The Diocesan Synod has adopted National Church Guidelines for both lay and ordained Church workers. These include the requirement for Safe Ministry checks, referee checks and appropriate training to be completed by Church workers prior to their taking up positions in the Church. Having agreed to their use in the Diocese, it is important that we implement these guidelines.

These changes provide the basis for ensuring that all ministry carried out in the Diocese truly reflects the command of Jesus, who said, "Love your God with all your-heart, soul, mind and strength; and love your neighbour as yourself."

These commands guide our behaviour in our relationships and the establishment and exercising of safe activities and events, run in safe environments in an abuse-free Christian community.

Copies of the Protocol and Guidelines for Safe Ministry, and Faithfulness in Service can be downloaded from this website.