



Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

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Re: Sex Offenders and Persons of Concern In Parishes

Dear Clergy,

As part of our ongoing commitment to addressing issues of abuse within the Church, it is important that any identified risks are appropriately managed. We do have sex offenders and persons of concern involved with parishes who pose varying levels of risk and there are a range of appropriate risk management strategies that need to be applied in our ongoing engagement with them.

Some of these strategies include measures such as;

- Specific and intense pastoral support
- A formalised memorandum of understanding with an individual outlining what activities that person may be involved in, what boundaries and expectations are to be put in place and how that is to be achieved.
- Restrictions placed on an individual (for example not to be involved with youth or to take on any significant role)
- Implementation of a parish support and monitoring team

Some of our parishes have already successfully implemented strategies such as these. To ignore such risks and leave them unaddressed is a breach of our responsibilities and may void our insurance cover. If you are aware of a sex offender or person of concern involved in the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle you should contact the Director of Professional Standards who will assist you in conducting risk assessments and formulating an appropriate response. Of course we acknowledge that some parishes simply do not have the resources necessary to manage such risks, and in those cases The Director can provide appropriate advice on how to respond and move forward.

The attached document published by the Anglican Church of Australia's Professional Standards Commission provides a clear set of guidelines along with background information relating to this issue, all clergy should be familiar with this document.

If you wish to discuss this matter please contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Michael Elliott

Director of Professional Standards
 Anglican Diocese of Newcastle