



Child
Protection
Council

South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council

CHARTER

*Message of His Holiness Pope John Paul II
for the XXIV World Day of Peace*

Let us give children a future of peace! This is the confident appeal which I make to men and women of good will, and I invite everyone to help children grow up in an environment of authentic peace. This is their right, and it is our duty.

(1st January, 1996)

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Children and young people are our present and our future. They have the right to grow and to develop their full potential physically, emotionally and spiritually. That potential is their families' and communities' responsibility to nurture and fulfil.
- 1.2 Children and young people are also vulnerable and may be exposed to, and affected by, significant psychological and social adversity. There also exists in our society and its institutions a risk that children and young people will be subjected to exploitation by those who are more powerful. Therefore, the South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council has been established to oversee the safety and well-being of children and young people within our Church community*, in partnership with their families.
- 1.3 The Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie recognise and encourage the significant role that the Church community plays in the provision of an environment that nurtures the well-being of children, young people and their families. In doing this, the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie also require the Church community to implement practices which are defined as child safe and which sustain and maintain the sanctity of trust that children place in adults.

2 Responsibilities

- 2.1 Responsibilities of the South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council:
This Charter directs the South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council to work towards ensuring the creation of a safe environment for children and young people in the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie by:
- 2.1.1 Sharing their expertise and providing significant advice to the Archbishop of Adelaide and Bishop of Port Pirie, in whom repose the final decision making authority
- 2.1.2 Coordinating a consistent approach to child protection which is understood by, and empowers, the Church community
- 2.1.3 Developing child protection policy, procedure and practice initiatives
- 2.1.4 Monitoring the implementation of these initiatives
- 2.1.5 Overseeing the regular review and audit of these initiatives to ensure their effectiveness
- 2.1.6 Recommending appropriate child protection policies to the Archbishop of Adelaide and Bishop of Port Pirie for approval
- 2.1.7 Through the review process, advising the Archbishop of Adelaide and Bishop of Port Pirie of any concerns about the implementation of an approved child protection policy, procedure or practice
- 2.1.8 Working collaboratively with government and other relevant agencies that have responsibilities for, or interest in, child protection
- 2.2 Responsibilities of the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie:
- 2.2.1 The Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie shall provide sufficient resources to enable the implementation of the approved policies and initiatives of the South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council
- 2.2.2 The South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council will be assisted as needed by staff of the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie

3 Implementation

The South Australian Catholic Child Protection Council will define the limits of its conduct and activity for any particular period. This Charter will be reviewed annually.

+ Philip Wilson

Archbishop Philip Wilson DD JCL

+ Eugene Hurley

Bishop Eugene Hurley DD

Prue McEvoy

Dr Prue McEvoy, Chair
SA Catholic Child Protection Council

* The concept of Church community is broad and includes any Church body or agency, and all people involved in the life and work of the Church. A Church body may be a religious institute, any other juridical body, body corporate, organisation or association, including autonomous lay organisations, that exercise pastoral ministry within, or on behalf of, the Archdiocese of Adelaide or Diocese of Port Pirie.