



Policies and Procedures in relation to *The Safeguarding Project*

Robust procedures are in operation for known child sex offenders attending mass within The Perth Catholic Archdiocese and would apply to all three categories listed above. Any person that is known to be a child sex offender or is suspected of being a child sex offender is required to agree to a *Church Attendance Agreement* and must at all times abide by the specifications and requirements outlined in the agreement. For those suspected of child sex offences the agreement will be in operation until a risk assessment can take place. Form 14, Management of known child sex offenders, is the Policy Document that relates to the consideration, management and non-compliance to the *Church Attendance Agreements*.

Once knowledge is gained in respect to a known or suspected child sex offender either attending or wishing to attend mass the Safeguarding Project Officer is to be notified as soon as is practicable. The management of individuals once an Agreement has been signed in effect is managed by the Parish Priest in partnership with the Safeguarding Officers attached to the Parish (as necessary) and the Safeguarding Project Coordinator. Whilst not all known sex offenders will be bound by offender reporting legislation most that come to our attention will be and as such any statutory order or legislation takes precedence over a *Church Attendance Agreement*. This said an individual known or suspected of being a child sex offender cannot attend the parish of his choosing without a *Church Attendance Agreement*. Other arrangements however will be made for his attendance that is suitable to his or her situation.

Because each child sex offender is unique and offending behaviours vary the *Church Attendance Agreements* are drafted as an individualised plan of accountability. When commencing the draft agreement consideration will be given to the Parish size and demographics, severity of the offence, church buildings and grounds, supervision, liability considerations, spiritual needs of the offender and the safety of children always being the priority.

Agreements adhere to the requirements of state legislation including requirements from the following Western Australian Acts;

- Working With Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act
- Dangerous Sexual Offenders Act (2006)
- Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004
- Children and Community Services Act (2004).

These Acts require certain offenders who commit sexual or certain other serious offences to keep police informed of their whereabouts and other personal details for a period of time to reduce the likelihood that they will re-offend and to facilitate the