



Fact sheet: Relevant government agencies

A number of government agencies have a role in child protection.

Of these government agencies (listed below), the parishes and agencies are only likely to deal with the Office of the Children's Guardian (for screening of persons working with children).

However, it is important Parish Priests (and administrators), agency heads and other staff have a basic understanding of the functions of all the government agencies described below, even if they will not have direct, regular contact with them.

The following government agencies have a role in child protection:

1. Office of the Children's Guardian (Children's Guardian)

Parish Priests (or administrators) and agency heads will need to verify with the Children's Guardian that all persons who work with children have a valid working with children clearance.

2. NSW Police

Parish Priests (or administrators), agency heads and their staff are under a personal obligation to report serious indictable offences to NSW Police.

3. NSW Ombudsman

Under the NSW Ombudsman's child protection regime, the Archbishop of Sydney is under an obligation to develop child protection systems and report reportable allegations and convictions to the NSW Ombudsman.

Parish Priests (or administrators) and agency heads must maintain and act in accordance with child protection systems, including notifying the Chancery of any concerns relating to employees, so that the Archbishop can discharge his obligations in this regard.

4. Department of Family and Community Services (FaCS)

Parish Priests (or administrators) and agency heads should notify the Vicar General and the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office of concerns regarding child abuse and neglect so that he can make a determination as to whether they should be reported to FaCS.

5. The New South Wales Advocate for Children and Young People (NSWACYP)

The NSWACYP is an independent statutory office reporting to the NSW Parliament through the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Children and Young People.

6. National Children's Commissioner (NCC)

The NCC focuses on the interests of children at a national level. The parishes and agencies have no direct connection with the NCC.