

*APPENDIX E (Marist Brothers Child Protection Policy, June 2013)*

## **THE PROVINCE'S PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS REFERENCE COMMITTEES**

There are two standing committees in the Province to guide and to advise on professional standards, including child protection: Province Professional Standards Advisory Committee, and the Ministries Professional Standards Committee. The Province Professional Standards Officer is a member of both committees:

### **1. Province Professional Standards Advisory Committee (PPSAC)**

The PPSAC provides general advice to the Provincial and Council on:

- i. development of the Province Child Protection Policy;
- ii. support for people with accusations of abuse from Brothers;
- iii. legal matters in relation to child protection that are the responsibility of the Province, including those referred to it by the Ministries Professional Standards Committee;
- iv. "Towards Healing" cases – cases responded to under the Towards Healing Protocol;
- v. cases involving Brothers;
- vi. historical cases in Province-governed ministries;
- vii. risk assessment of accused Brothers;
- viii. supervision of restricted Brothers;
- ix. public relations;
- x. formation of Brothers regarding the Province Child Protection Policy and Integrity In Ministry;
- xi. the work of the Province Professional Standards Officer.

The PPSAC supports and guides the work of the PPSO in relation to the above matters.

### **2. Ministries Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)**

On behalf of the Provincial and Council, the MPSC:

- i. ensures that the local policies and practices of Province Ministries are consistent with Province policies in relation to child protection, bullying, harassment and other areas of professional standards;
- ii. receives regular summaries of progress/resolution of all professional standards matters in Province Ministries;<sup>2</sup>
- iii. audits the compliance of Province Ministries with this policy and other professional standards matters;
- iv. provides advice, as required, to the relevant Province person (e.g. Executive Director Marist Ministries, Marist Schools Australia Regional Directors, Principals, Ministry Leaders) on current matters involving lay people in relation to professional standards: protocols, notifications, investigations, legal proceedings, terminations;
- v. provides advice to the Provincial on current matters involving Brothers in relation to bullying and sexual harassment: protocols, notifications, investigations, legal proceedings, sanctions;
- vi. ensures that appropriate staff training is in place in all ministries in relation to child protection, bullying, sexual harassment.

<sup>2</sup> Marist Youth Care (MYC), a youth welfare agency owned by the Province, has separate processes for child protection matters. The CEO reports on these to the Board of Directors. The Provincial and Council requires annual written assurance and documentary evidence from the Board that MYC is compliant in regard to Child Protection obligations and appropriate audits.