



NSW Paid, C.T.A.T.G  
Decl. Postal Booklet  
NOT National

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## INFORMATION CIRCULAR

July 2002

### To St. Ann's Parents & Families

Interest has been expressed in regard to knowing more about screening guidelines and police checks for employees and volunteers working in Catholic schools.

As you may be aware the State Government is currently undertaking a Review of Child Protection laws and processes in South Australia. Catholic Education is contributing to this review. Catholic schools have many measures in place which aim to protect children. Our processes are always under review to ensure we have best practice in our schools. Current practice includes:

- Mandatory Notification of Child Abuse update training for staff in schools. Currently teachers would normally complete Mandatory Notification either before or soon after commencing teaching. From 2003 any teacher commencing work in a Catholic school must have undertaken Mandatory Notification Training before the commencement of duties.
- Before being appointed to a position in a Catholic school a person is referenced through their current employer or, if not employed, the immediate past employer.
- Prior to the offer of employment the principal refers the name of the person to be employed to the Catholic Education Office to ensure that any additional information related to the employment history of the person is available to the Principal.
- From 2003 a Police Check will be required for all staff being employed for the first time in Catholic schools. Discussions are currently taking place with the police to ensure due processes are in place for these checks. All teachers registered since 1997 have undergone a police check.

**Currently Police Checks on teachers operates as follows:**

1. teachers seeking registration in SA are required to undergo a police check;
2. teachers renewing registration are required to sign a declaration indicating

*whether they have ever been convicted or found guilty of a criminal offence, have ever been dismissed or asked to resign from a teaching position, have been refused registration as a teacher or had teacher registration cancelled or suspended.*

- In many schools volunteers who work with children are required to complete a declaration as a minimum for working with children. This is being extended to all schools within the near future. Volunteers will be asked to disclose if they have ever been charged with a child related offence or if they have ever been investigated or resigned from a position prior to an investigation for any child related offence.

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If you have any queries regarding Employee Screening and Police Checks in Catholic Education further information is available from Human Resource Services on 8301 6626.

#### **Investigation Update**

Police advise that further investigations are ongoing in relation to additional charges. Families and ex-students are still being contacted and interviewed.

#### **Circular**

Some people have indicated they do not wish to receive Information Circulars. If you do require further Information Circulars please return the reply slip in the envelope provided.

#### **Contact Details continue to be:**

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