



COMPLIANCE OF STANDARDS

The Diocese of Ballarat is taking part in an audit by Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL) which will be conducted in May.

Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL) is committed to fostering a culture of safety and care for children and vulnerable adults. This is done through three main strategies:

- Setting the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards for use across the Catholic Church in Australia.
- Supporting Catholic entities to develop the knowledge, skills and capacity to implement appropriate safeguards through the provision of training, policy development and advice.
- Auditing and publicly report on compliance of Catholic entities with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

CPSL is a company established by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. In effect, the audit of the Diocese will assess compliance of the ten national standards, which can be read [here](#).

The Diocese will follow an audit schedule which includes completing the Entity Demographics for the Diocese as well as a Self-Assessment of Compliance for Diocesan entities (including parishes) and a Declaration of Assurance and Compliance (for regulated entities such as Education and Centacare).

CPSL will review the documentation and provide the Diocese with a document request for evidence in their self-assessment.

CPSL will also visit the Diocese including parishes and conduct interviews to look at compliance. As part of the fieldwork for the audit, it is anticipated that the auditors will visit ten parishes. It is probable that the parish visits will involve interviews with the Parish Priest, members of the Parish Leadership Team and the Parish Safeguarding Officer, review of documents and testing, which will include looking at evidence that safeguarding policies and practices are being applied by the Parish.

The audit results will be published.

More information on CPSL can be found at this [link](#).

Michael Myers, Professional Standards