



St Vincent de Paul Society
NATIONAL COUNCIL of AUSTRALIA Inc. *good works*

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS AT RISK

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

The protection of children and adults at risk is the responsibility of all members, volunteers and employees of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

On behalf of the Society in Australia, National Council has committed to safeguarding children and adults at risk. This means that at every level of the Society in Australia, all people, regardless of their age, gender, race, religious beliefs, disability, sexual orientation, or family or social background, have equal rights to protection from abuse, neglect, or exploitation.

The Society in Australia is responsible for conducting safeguarding practices under national frameworks and State and Territory civil and criminal legislation. The 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (NPCSO) align to recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and provide a national approach to embedding a child safe culture across all sectors of Australian society in which children are involved. The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) draw on the NPCSO and support Catholic institutions in the implementation of safeguarding practices to protect children and adults at risk.

National Council ensures national consistency on safeguarding across the Society through the adoption of the Commonwealth's NPCSO and the NCSS. Each State and Territory is responsible for aligning to the NCSS and NPCSO and operating under policies and procedures which are written according to the relevant jurisdictions' criminal laws and regulations.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

NATIONAL PRINCIPLES FOR
CHILD SAFE ORGANISATIONS

STATE AND TERRITORY CIVIL &
CRIMINAL LEGISLATION

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

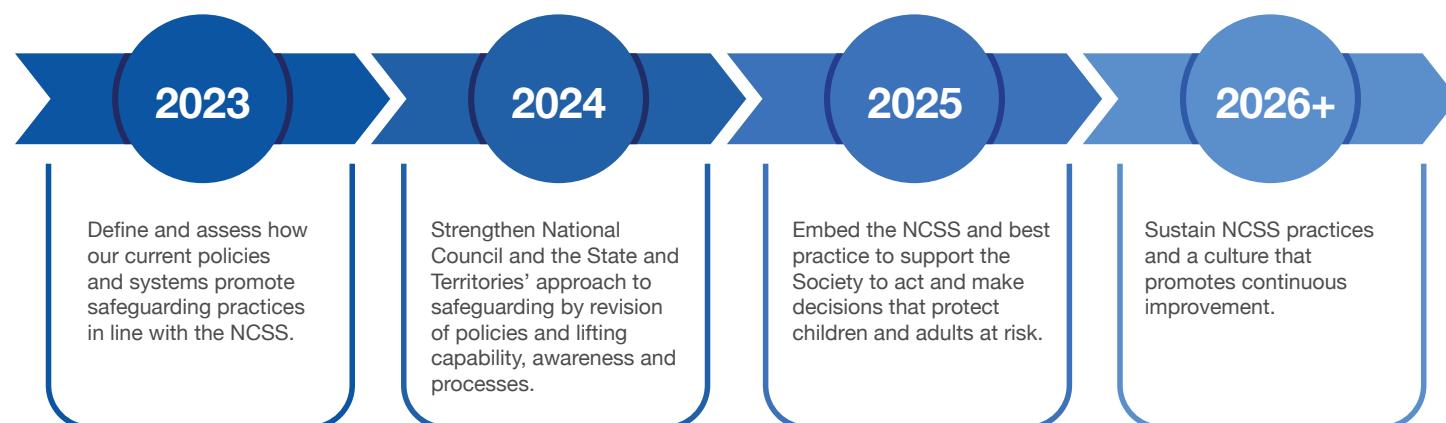
The NCSS consists of 10 Standards that outline policies and activities designed to prevent, respond to, and support reporting of concerns regarding abuse. The Standards assist the Society to place the safety of children and adults at risk at the core of how we plan, think and act.

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|  STANDARD 1 Committed leadership, governance and culture |  STANDARD 6 Effective complaints management |
|  STANDARD 2 Children and adults are safe, informed and participate |  STANDARD 7 Ongoing education and training |
|  STANDARD 3 Partnering with families, carers and communities |  STANDARD 8 Safe physical and online environments |
|  STANDARD 4 Equity is promoted and diversity is respected |  STANDARD 9 Continuous improvement |
|  STANDARD 5 Robust human resource management |  STANDARD 10 Policies and procedures support the safety of children and adults |

Our Safeguarding Journey

In August 2020, National Council committed the Society to adopting the NCSS and ensuring compliance with the Standards by **2025**.

National Council Secretariate is working with States and Territory Councils and Council and corporate entity CEOs to define our current state of compliance with the NCSS and, where necessary, to strengthen policies, procedures, and practices to embed a sustainable safeguarding culture, aligned with the NCSS, across the Society in Australia.



Safeguarding is your responsibility

You can make a difference to the safety of children and adults at risk by being familiar with your jurisdiction-relevant Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct and Reporting of Concerns procedures, and by ensuring you and the members in your Conference/Special Work have up-to-date Working with Vulnerable People/Working with Children checks, where these are required, and have participated in Safeguarding training.

Further information

- **National Council Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy**
www.vinnies.org.au/national-council/national-council-safeguarding-policy
- **National Council, National Redress Scheme**
www.vinnies.org.au/national-council/national-redress-scheme
- **Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd, National Catholic Safeguarding Standards**
www.acsltd.org.au/
- **National Principles for Child Safe Organisations**
<https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles>