

Submitted Date	30-May-2018 15:03
Total Time Taken	8687.81
Come-back-Later Code	LRN82J5688
1. Is this an individual response or are you officially responding on behalf of an organisation?	Individual
2. Please provide your name	Beth Gibson
3. Please indicate your stakeholder group(s) :	Parishioner
8. Please select the state(s) and/or territory(s) you are based in?	Australian Capital Territory
Do you consent to your identifying details being published, in addition to your responses, on the CPSL website?	Yes, CPSL can publish my identifying details
General feedback relating to the Standards	
1. The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards are: - Easy to understand	Agree
1. The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards are: - Presented in a logical manner	Agree
1. The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards are: - User-friendly	Agree
1. The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards are: - Consistent and accurate in their use of terminology	Agree
2. I/we believe that the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards create conditions that will increase the likelihood of identifying and reporting harm to children in Catholic entities.	Agree
3. I/we believe that the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards will facilitate appropriate response to disclosures, allegations and suspicions of harm to children in Catholic entities.	Agree
4. I/we believe that the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards will reduce the likelihood of harm to children in Catholic entities.	Agree

Please provide further explanation regarding your choice of responses to questions 1 to 4, either by providing a general comment below and/or providing specific comments against each Standard in the next section of the Survey.

5. General/Overall comments on the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

While I have ticked the 'agree' box in all the above statements, it would actually be more correct to answer 'I hope' for all of them. As with most standards, it is going to be in the detailed enactment of them at the local level that will determine their efficacy. It is easy in a way to list aspirational standards, but in my long experience it usually comes down to the quality and expertise of the personnel involved to make the standards 'real'. We need quality people on the ground and in the hierarchy to make these standards 'live'! Having said this though, I am pleased to see the effort that is going into ensuring children are safe in our schools, parishes, groups and other services.

Standard 1: Committed leadership, governance and culture

1. How would you rate this Standard in relation to safeguarding children from harm in Catholic entities?

Effective

1a. Please explain your response.

I have no further comment about this standard, except to reinforce my earlier reflection that we need good quality people in our governance structures. I think this standard is a good start.

2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for improvement in relation to the topic covered by this Standard? Will the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards address and alleviate these challenges?

I think the main cultural challenge is to encourage people not to let their personal feelings and relationships interfere with their working lives. They need to be able to look at situations and the people involved in a clear professional manner. It is so tempting, and human, to want to 'believe in' and 'trust' the people we like or are answerable to.

3. What are the main challenges and obstacles you can foresee to the implementation of, and achievement of compliance with, these Standards?

I think some entities will struggle to give a 'proper voice' to those who have traditionally been silenced eg children, women, the laity in general.

4. Are there any gaps in the Standard, Criteria, Indicators or Implementation and Evidence Guide that you can identify, or areas that have

Not that I can see.

not been covered?	
Standard 2: Children are safe, informed and participate	
1. How would you rate this Standard in relation to safeguarding children from harm in Catholic entities?	Effective
1a. Please explain your response.	It is a good start to acknowledge that children must have a voice.
2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for improvement in relation to the topic covered by this Standard? Will the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards address and alleviate these challenges?	One of the challenges, in my experience, is not assuming that parents can speak for their children. In our Catholic settings we often give incredible power to parents' voices in comparison to those of children. eg education is often seen as a matter for parental choice rather than what might be best for the children.
3. What are the main challenges and obstacles you can foresee to the implementation of, and achievement of compliance with, these Standards?	It will be a huge challenge to work out how children's voices can be heard. What mechanisms will we use? How can we ensure children will feel free to use the mechanisms that are set up? Will it require their parents to assist? Or teachers? Is there a model we can use as a starting point?
4. Are there any gaps in the Standard, Criteria, Indicators or Implementation and Evidence Guide that you can identify, or areas that have not been covered?	n/a
Standard 3: Partnering with families, carers and communities	
1. How would you rate this Standard in relation to safeguarding children from harm in Catholic entities?	Somewhat effective
1a. Please explain your response.	If we are partnering with families and carers, how do we ensure children have their own separate voice? Do we also see families as 'church'? How will we reach out to families to prevent or respond to child abuse?
2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for improvement in relation to the topic covered by this Standard? Will the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards	If we take on board Vatican 2's idea that 'the church' is the community of the faithful, then how do we also work with our families to ensure the safety of children in them? After all, we know

address and alleviate these challenges?	that most abuse happens within families. We can't just focus on what happens within church buildings and services etc. We also have to think about the most intimate of 'church settings' - the family.
3. What are the main challenges and obstacles you can foresee to the implementation of, and achievement of compliance with, these Standards?	I think it is going to be tough to get our families to acknowledge that most abuse happens within the confines of the family home. And I think many clergy and staff will struggle to reach out.
4. Are there any gaps in the Standard, Criteria, Indicators or Implementation and Evidence Guide that you can identify, or areas that have not been covered?	n/a
Standard 4: Equity is promoted and diversity is respected	
1. How would you rate this Standard in relation to safeguarding children from harm in Catholic entities?	Effective
1a. Please explain your response.	I think this is quite tricky as we can already see in the secular world that some people claim different cultures have different standards and expectations round children and behaviour. How do we support clergy and staff to name inappropriate or abusive behaviour if it is regarded as fine by the family?
2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for improvement in relation to the topic covered by this Standard? Will the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards address and alleviate these challenges?	As well as promoting and supporting the value of friendship, it may also be useful to do the same for sibling relationships. Sibling relationships are the longest we ever have.
3. What are the main challenges and obstacles you can foresee to the implementation of, and achievement of compliance with, these Standards?	n/a
4. Are there any gaps in the Standard, Criteria, Indicators or Implementation and Evidence Guide that you can identify, or areas that have not been covered?	n/a
Standard 5: Robust human resource management	
1. How would you rate this Standard in relation	Somewhat effective

to safeguarding children from harm in Catholic entities?	
1a. Please explain your response.	As mentioned earlier in this survey, I think employing quality staff is the single most important action to reduce the risk of children being abused, and to ensure a prompt and robust response of abuse has occurred.
2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for improvement in relation to the topic covered by this Standard? Will the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards address and alleviate these challenges?	While it is of course really important to check a job applicant's registration and qualifications etc, it should also be mandatory to directly have a conversation, eg by telephone, with previous employers. I say this because in at least two school situations I was involved in previously, there were signs or actual actions in a previous job that would have alerted the current employer to the 'inappropriateness' of the applicant. In both situations, the principals told me they would always ring the previous schools in the future.
3. What are the main challenges and obstacles you can foresee to the implementation of, and achievement of compliance with, these Standards?	n/a
4. Are there any gaps in the Standard, Criteria, Indicators or Implementation and Evidence Guide that you can identify, or areas that have not been covered?	In point 5.3, the standard needs to articulate what the purpose of the action is.
Standard 6: Effective complaints management	
1. How would you rate this Standard in relation to safeguarding children from harm in Catholic entities?	Effective
1a. Please explain your response.	The standards seem like they will help.
2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for improvement in relation to the topic covered by this Standard? Will the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards address and alleviate these challenges?	n/a
3. What are the main challenges and obstacles you can foresee to the implementation of, and achievement of compliance with, these Standards?	n/a

<p>4. Are there any gaps in the Standard, Criteria, Indicators or Implementation and Evidence Guide that you can identify, or areas that have not been covered?</p>	<p>In standard 6.5 I think we need to say something about support for the families of the 'victims' - not just the (presumably) church respondent.</p>
<p>Standard 7: Ongoing education and training</p>	
<p>1. How would you rate this Standard in relation to safeguarding children from harm in Catholic entities?</p>	<p>Somewhat effective</p>
<p>1a. Please explain your response.</p>	<p>Like most training, this will only be truly effective if it comes in a timely manner eg during or after an 'event'. Annual training will be unlikely to have much use unless it is just as it is needed. Would be great if it wasn't of course!! Again, the quality of staff and leaders will be the most important aspect of any response.</p>
<p>2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for improvement in relation to the topic covered by this Standard? Will the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards address and alleviate these challenges?</p>	<p>Given that most child abuse events do not come at a convenient time, it might be useful for all entities to be subjected to random 'events' - like we have unexpected fire drills sometimes to ensure we know what to do. Perhaps as an exercise during a staff meeting?</p>
<p>3. What are the main challenges and obstacles you can foresee to the implementation of, and achievement of compliance with, these Standards?</p>	<p>I think the challenge is to think that regular training and education is enough to ensure a good response.</p>
<p>4. Are there any gaps in the Standard, Criteria, Indicators or Implementation and Evidence Guide that you can identify, or areas that have not been covered?</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>Standard 8: Safe physical and online environments</p>	
<p>1. How would you rate this Standard in relation to safeguarding children from harm in Catholic entities?</p>	<p>Effective</p>
<p>1a. Please explain your response.</p>	<p>Seems to cover most things.</p>
<p>2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for improvement in relation to the topic covered by this Standard? Will the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards address and alleviate these challenges?</p>	<p>I was surprised the standards did not refer to the confessional, other than to say children should always be in line of sight to another adult. I would think that each entity, given there is no appetite to 'break the seal of the confessional' in relation</p>

	to child abuse matters, should develop protocols for managing any such matters that come up within the sacrament of confession. Why would we assume that clergy know how best to approach this most difficult situation? Counsellors, who are also bound by confidentiality ethics, are guided in how to respond.
3. What are the main challenges and obstacles you can foresee to the implementation of, and achievement of compliance with, these Standards?	n/a
4. Are there any gaps in the Standard, Criteria, Indicators or Implementation and Evidence Guide that you can identify, or areas that have not been covered?	n/a
Standard 9: Policies and procedures support child safety	
1. How would you rate this Standard in relation to safeguarding children from harm in Catholic entities?	Effective
1a. Please explain your response.	They are important but not sufficient.
2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for improvement in relation to the topic covered by this Standard? Will the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards address and alleviate these challenges?	n/a
3. What are the main challenges and obstacles you can foresee to the implementation of, and achievement of compliance with, these Standards?	n/a
4. Are there any gaps in the Standard, Criteria, Indicators or Implementation and Evidence Guide that you can identify, or areas that have not been covered?	n/a
Standard 10: Regular improvement	
1. How would you rate this Standard in relation to safeguarding children from harm in Catholic entities?	Effective
1a. Please explain your response.	Yes we need to keep learning and reflecting.

<p>2. What are the key challenges and opportunities for improvement in relation to the topic covered by this Standard? Will the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards address and alleviate these challenges?</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>3. What are the main challenges and obstacles you can foresee to the implementation of, and achievement of compliance with, these Standards?</p>	<p>n/a</p>
<p>4. Are there any gaps in the Standard, Criteria, Indicators or Implementation and Evidence Guide that you can identify, or areas that have not been covered?</p>	<p>n/a</p>