

Submitted Date	07-Jun-2018 13:45
Total Time Taken	2435.25
Come-back-Later Code	6DAU2PQ7G7
1. Is this an individual response or are you officially responding on behalf of an organisation?	Catholic entity
4. Please provide the name of the Catholic entity you are officially responding on behalf of	Catholic Diocese of Parramatta
5. Please indicate the type of Catholic entity you are officially responding on behalf of	Diocese
6. Please indicate the approximate number of Church personnel affiliated with your organisation	1001 - 5000
8. Please select the state(s) and/or territory(s) you are based in?	New South Wales
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.	Disagree
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.	Disagree

<p>4. I/we believe that the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards will reduce the likelihood of harm to children in Catholic entities.</p>	<p>Disagree</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>5. General/Overall comments on the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards</p>	<p>The Standards themselves are clear as principles. We recommend that you align as closely as possible to the Royal Commission and government standards so we are consistent across agencies.</p> <p>The reason we put "disagree" on the above is that we consider Standards alone make little difference. It's the application and implementation that make the difference; along with the personnel applying it all.</p> <p>Further, unless there are the relevant required governance and structure changes in the Catholic Church, along with Australian laws that need adjustment eg: sharing information across states - then the standards will only create safe environments to a limited extent. The risk is that much time and money goes into minor shifts without the underpinning practices that go to the heart of safeguarding are does not change.</p> <p>The draft was quite overwhelming and we appreciate it was rushed and a first consult, and the timeline and the form made it difficult to know how to provide meaningful and helpful feedback. (We have also contributed in some more detail though a joint response together with another Diocese and CRA).</p> <p>Main points we would like to contribute are:</p> <p>1) that the criteria and indicators need to be applicable to smaller agencies as well as larger ones, as some simply will not be about to resource what are currently in the draft. So, I'm not sure if you tier them for different agencies - but then will that mean some agencies are safer</p>

than others. Do we risk that smaller agencies or those less financial cannot provide services safely to children and vulnerable people? Big Diocese like ours are already supporting operations of some smaller agencies and Dioceses and we know the people working in those are sinking under the many hats they wear. The Church leadership needs to think this through carefully so we do not set up some the ministry in smaller agencies to fail. So, there is lots about how it will be applied to different shapes and sizes of Catholic agencies would influence our feedback on the draft standards and we do not know that information to give the feedback.

2) Our focus is on the criteria and points for real change - not just nice policies etc. so we looking for that to come through in the standards.

3) In their current form they are too big and not practical for many agencies (but we appreciate you already know that and just looking for feedback).

4) Relevance to PJPs and CRA needs to be all through the language and they need to be in key voices.

Laity need to be key voices tested in practice through the standards.

As mentioned, timeline and the form made it difficult to know how best to assist you with meaningful feedback. We are happy to support the development of the standards and processes as they move ahead but not sure if more words at this point will assist you in this regard at this stage of your consultation process.

Thank you for the opportunity to have input.

Claire Pirola, Safeguarding & Professional

Standards for Diocese of Parramatta.