

Submitted Date	07-Jun-2018 17:21
Total Time Taken	97.99
Come-back-Later Code	SUG3W8438S
1. Is this an individual response or are you officially responding on behalf of an organisation?	Individual
2. Please provide your name	Tanya Raffoul
3. Please indicate your stakeholder group(s) :	Professional
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.	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

I welcome the Catholic Church's proactive and transparent approach to facilitating a safe culture for children within the Catholic Church in Australia. As a young Catholic, it fills me with hope that the Catholic Church holds the dignity, innocence and safety of children and vulnerable individuals as paramount. However, any reformative measure should not undermine or jeopardise the teachings of the Bible or Church, or be inconsistent with comparative legal standards.

The teachings of the Gospel and Church may offend some, and even enrage others, but it is still held as the truth by Catholics across this great country.

The Preamble to the draft National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) clearly stipulates that the Catholic Professional Standards Limited (CPSL) will "publicly report audit findings" with respect to compliance with each standard. I express deep concern that this will provide fuel for Australia's leftist media outlets who already prioritise and promote anti-conservative and anti-Catholic stories. Our Church has suffered enough during the long years of the inquiry, and publicly shaming organisations deemed to be in breach of these standards will hinder any progress that is made in the years following the inquiry. We, the God fearing, conservative Catholics of Australia are already being labelled bigots, sexists, homophobes, and naïve Churchgoers.

I draw your attention to Standard 1.3.3, which refers to "discriminatory behaviour or language" not being acceptable. This is highly subjective and will create considerable confusion as Catholic teachings regarding same-sex marriage and gender theory may be considered "discriminatory" by some members of the public.

In fact, in the case of *Hope v NIB Health Funds Ltd* (1995), it was recognised that differential treatment against a homosexual couple may constitute discrimination on the ground of homosexuality. Does this mean our religious leaders will be gagged from preaching the teachings of the Catholic Church?

Whilst I appreciate that the children are our future, I am concerned to read that Standards 2.1.1 and 2.1.3 call on the “views of children in the development of safeguarding policies, strategies and when making decisions”. It worries me that minors in NSW cannot vote, hold a driver’s licence or drink alcohol until they reach adulthood yet we are burdening them with the task of developing codes of conduct, policies and risk assessments – matters which are of grave importance and which are best placed with experts.

As a Catholic who has welcomed the opportunity to attend a pilgrim, I urge you to reconsider Standard 1.6.1, which requires “all participants involved in the cultural immersion program, overseas ministry or pilgrimage sign a code of conduct and attend safeguarding training”. This is unworkable and impractical. For example, adults embarking on a teacher pilgrimage to the Holy Land (as I have) will be forced to complete courses and declarations irrespective of whether minors are attending the trip. There must be some discretion drafted into this standard for all organisers of these precious trips.

Please accept my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the opportunity to share my views with you. And I welcome the opportunity to discuss my concerns with you in further detail should you wish.