

Risen Christ Parish
Safeguarding Committee
23 August 2025

Minutes

Present: Fr Michael Sierakowski, John Ramsdale, Mark Kulkens, Anne Williams, and Peter Williams

1. Apologies: Frances Sullivan, Lorraine Furtado, Nika Cseh

2. Prayer and Acknowledgment of Country- Fr Michael

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

4. Parish Compliance Issues

Peter advised that currently all volunteers in the parish are fully compliant with the Safeguarding requirements. As Codes of Conduct and WWCC are about to expire the individuals concerned continue to be contacted to ensure ongoing compliance.

Peter noted that those volunteers who undertook the face-to-face Essential Safeguarding Training Module in November/December 2022 will be required to renew the training in November/December this year.

5. ACSL Audit

Discussion followed on the inclusion of Risen Christ Parish in the upcoming Audit by ACSL. (A copy of the audit schedule was circulated prior to the meeting). It was noted that a copy of the 2025 Risen Christ Parish Self-Assessment is required to be forwarded to the Safeguarding Unit by 29 August.

In preparation for the audit an online meeting is scheduled for Thursday 28 August at 5:00pm. All Committee members are encouraged to attend. A copy of Australian Catholic Safeguarding Audit FAQs was tabled.

The Self-Assessment document (which had been sent to all members prior to this meeting) was discussed, with only one further amendment suggested. Fr Michael approved and endorsed the Self-Assessment.

6. Risk Assessments

Copies of the 2022 Risk Assessments for:

- OLHC Church
- SFX Church, and
- Parish Office

These Risk Assessments were discussed and some minor changes included. John suggested the inclusion of a risk that as SFX school children access the SVDP Food Store under SFX church, twice a year. On those occasions they help stock the shelves with food donations received through

the school.

Fr Michael spoke of the personal risk to Kate Kogler (Parish Secretary), on those occasions she is alone in the office. He noted that procedures are in place should she ever feel at risk.

The Risk Assessments for; OLHC and SFX Churches and the Parish Office were approved

7. Safeguarding Committee Role Description and Risk Assessments

Copies of the Safeguarding Committee and Safeguarding Officer Role Description and Risk Assessments are to be considered outside the meeting.

8. Other Business

Committee Membership

The potential for the inclusion of a young person on the Committee was discussed. It was acknowledged that should an interested young person be included on the committee, we would need to ensure that they have an effective voice in discussions. This matter is to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Safeguarding and the Perspective of Young People

Mark spoke on some recent research he had read that looks at Safeguarding from the perspective of young people and the need to upskill all parties to ensure concerns or disclosures are more likely to be expressed and adequately responded to.

Mark has offered to circulate a summary of this research and to speak to this in more detail at the next meeting

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to be **Saturday 8 November 2025**

- Prayer and Welcome to Country – Nika.