

Ballarat Diocesan Professional Standards Consultative Panel

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The Consultative Panel is part of the structure under the protocols established by the Towards Healing process which provides that each Bishop must have a Consultative panel to advise him at various stages in the Towards Healing process for responding to complaints of abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults and to assist him in the formulation of and the review of Diocesan policy regarding professional standards.

The responsibility of the Consultative Panel is as follows:

- To consider and formulate the appropriate responses to complaints against clergy, employees and volunteers in the Diocese.
- To review current policies and implement new policies and practice in relation to safeguarding children and other vulnerable people in the Diocese.

Ballarat Diocesan Policy on Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults:

“The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat is committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for people of all ages, with special concern for children, young people and vulnerable adults. This commitment is made in the spirit of Christ’s teachings on behalf the bishop, clergy, staff and volunteers who serve in parishes, schools, Centacare and other Catholic organisations in the Diocese. The Diocese will respond to complaints of unprofessional conduct in ways that reflect nationally established standards and protocols and ensure adherence to applicable legislation. We are committed to providing ongoing pastoral support to any person affected by physical, emotional or sexual abuse by church personnel.”