

FACT SHEET 2

Upcoming Safeguarding Audit – 2025

In August 2025, the Archdiocese will participate in a safeguarding audit conducted by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL). The audit will assess our compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS).

What are the NCSS?

The NCSS provide a framework to help Catholic Church entities create safe environments for children and adults. The Standards include:

- 10 Standards
- 48 Criteria
- 103 Indicators

The NCSS apply to all Archdiocesan parishes, ministries, schools, services, offices, and agencies. The Archdiocese adopted the NCSS in 2019 and remains committed to full compliance.

Who is ACSL?

ACSL is the national safeguarding body for the Catholic Church in Australia.

ACSL promotes a consistent, high-quality approach to safeguarding and offers an audit and certification program for Church entities.

Certification is granted after an audit is completed and any recommendations are addressed.

What does the audit involve?

The audit will assess how effectively the Archdiocese is implementing all 10 NCSS. It includes the following steps:

- Self-assessment via ACSL's online system
- Site visits and evidence testing across a sample of parishes, ministries, schools, and services.
- Staff interviews
- A draft audit report for feedback
- Final report publication on the ACSL website, supported by media communications

Who will be involved?

ACSL will assess a cross-section of Archdiocesan operations, including:

- Parishes
- Ministries
- Schools
- Childcare services
- Centacare services
- Key Archdiocesan offices (e.g. Safeguarding, HR/People & Culture, Episcopal Offices)

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Expected site visits include:

- 15 Parishes
- 10 Schools
- 5 Childcare services
- 6 Centacare services

When is it happening?

Audit fieldwork will take place from 4 – 15 August 2025.

Need more information?

Visit: <https://www.acsltd.org.au/national-catholic-safeguarding-standards/>

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“Safeguarding risks arise when we don’t believe vulnerabilities exist.”