

FROM THE SAFEGUARDING AND RISK MANAGER

You may have heard the term “Safeguarding” being used within the Church Community. The Diocese of Waiapu is legally required, and has a responsibility as a loving Christian community to ensure the safety and promote the wellbeing of children, young people and adults.

A key point is that the Church needs to be protecting those who hold a position in the Church – be it clergy, vestry members, wardens, employees and volunteers - as much as it is about protecting those we serve.

As you will know, we are currently going through the process of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into State and Faith Based abuse, and the Anglican Church is not free from guilt in a number of matters currently before the Commission.

This is not a matter of Health and Safety, but is specific to the prevention or minimisation of the risk of intentional harm and/or neglect.

It is important that all those involved with the Church have an understanding of what is appropriate behaviour and how any inappropriate behaviour will be managed.

To ensure that everyone can understand what is required of them, we have developed a number of policies and procedures to help us navigate this not only difficult, but daunting aspect of our life in the Church.

The overarching policy, which has recently been updated can now be accessed through this link: <https://www.waiapu.com/resources/general-resources/>, and I would encourage you all to access this.

As well as the policies and procedures being developed, we are also developing training for everyone, and you will be advised of when this training will be held and where. Training will be required for clergy, wardens, vestry/parish council, employees and volunteers, and will take about 12 hours to complete in total and will cover the Title D training currently offered online.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns please feel free to contact me, Penny Hales, Safeguarding and Risk Manager, Waiapu Diocese on either:

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