

Reportable Conduct Scheme

The *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (Vic) was amended in 2017 to introduce a Reportable Conduct Scheme in Victoria to improve organisations' responses to allegations of child abuse and neglect by clergy, employees and volunteers. The scheme encompasses current and historical allegations of reportable conduct.

The scheme covers five types of reportable conduct against, with or in the presence of, a child or young person:

- sexual offences, including sexual behaviours (e.g. sexual assault, indecent acts, possession of child abuse material, grooming)
- sexual misconduct, which captures a broad range of inappropriate behaviours of a sexual nature that are not necessarily criminal (e.g. inappropriately discussing sex and sexuality with a child or young person)
- physical violence, including an act that causes physical injury or pain
- behaviour that causes significant emotional or psychological harm
- significant neglect

Under the Reportable Conduct Scheme, the head of an organisation has specific responsibilities in relation to overall compliance with the scheme, reporting child abuse or child-related misconduct, investigating the allegation(s) and providing findings to the CCYP.

The head of an organisation must ensure that their organisation:

- adopts a preventative approach to keeping children and young people safe consistent with the requirements of the Child Safe Standards
- has systems in place to enable any person to report concerns or allegations that reportable conduct may have occurred consistent with Standard 5 of the Child Safe Standards
- has systems in place to enable others to report to the CCYP if the reportable conduct allegations concern the head of the organisation
- have investigation process in place to respond to allegation and to report both internally and/or to Victoria Police or other relevant authorities.

USEFUL RESOURCES

The CCYP website has a range of useful information sheets and resources that summarise the Child Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme.

Commission for Children and Young People website <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au>

Reportable Conduct Scheme <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/resources/reportable-conduct-scheme-information-sheets/#Whats-RCS>



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*The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity
of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.*