

## Sharing Knowledge

***“Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live for ever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.” –***

**Pope Francis**



### Sharing Knowledge Resource 5.

## Safeguarding Adults at Risk

The Archdiocese of Sydney is required to be compliant with the safeguarding standards (NCSS) as set out by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL). In 2022 ACSL updated and broadened their standards to include adults at risk. The Safeguarding Office's policies and protocols have recently been updated to reflect the changes to the standards to include adults at risk. In addition to the changes to policies and protocols, there has been updates made to key documents that are used regularly by Parishes including an updated Code of Conduct and the Risk Assessment template. Both of these documents and all other policies, protocols and templates have now been uploaded onto the Archdiocese of Sydney website and can be found [here](#).

ACSL's definition of an Adult at risk means any person aged 18 years and over who is at increased risk of experiencing abuse, such as people:

- who are elderly
- with a disability
- who suffer from mental illness
- who have diminished capacity
- who have cognitive impairment
- who have suffered previous abuse
- who are experiencing transient risks
- who in receiving a ministry or service are subject to a power imbalance
- who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- who are from a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- who are of diverse sexuality
- who have any other impairment or adversity that makes it difficult for them to protect themselves from abuse.

The changes to the standards came about as a response to the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety and the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. More information about the changes to the standards and for a copy of the standards please click [here](#)

We welcome any and all feedback on these documents. If you wish to provide feedback please email [safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org)