



Anglican Church Diocese of Sydney

Important Notice for Ministers, Wardens and Safe Ministry Representatives about NSW Government Requirements for Ministry with Children and Changes to the Parish Administration Ordinance concerning Safe Ministry

- All Parishes must comply by 31 March 2015 with the NSW Government Working With Children Check (WWCC) requirements for all persons in child related work in the parish.
- Standing Committee has approved important changes to the Parish Administration Ordinance 2008.

NSW Government Requirements

The NSW Government has passed legislation which requires all parishes to:

- register as an “employer” with the Office of the Children’s Guardian, quoting the parish ABN;
- for everyone engaged in child-related ministry in the parish, whether on a paid or voluntary basis, obtain their:
 - full name;
 - date of birth;
 - Working With Children Check (WWCC) number;
- log onto the required web site and “verify” these details;
- ensure the parish retains the above details together with the date of verification and the outcome of the verification;
- make sure the above has been done by 31 March 2015 for all those involved in parish ministries with children.

Please note – Wardens are generally the employer of paid lay staff in a parish and therefore must ensure that all relevant employees of the parish have a verified WWCC number.

If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact the Safe Ministry Liaison Officer – the Rev Neil Atwood at the following email address: sml@sydney.anglican.asn.au

Changes to Parish Administration Ordinance 2008

On 16 February 2015 Standing Committee passed the Parish Administration (Safe Ministry) Amendment Ordinance 2015. The main changes were made to:

- make it clear that the minister has primary responsibility to ensure parish compliance with the Working With Children Check (WWCC) legislation;
- ensure the Safe Ministry Representative in each parish personally has a WWCC number and provides their details to the Registry;
- provide flexibility to parishes in appointing the parish Safe Ministry Representative – appointments will usually be open ended unless a termination date is set by the parish or the person appointed;
- give authority to the Registrar to obtain information concerning the safe ministry practices in parishes.

If you have any questions about these changes, please contact the Registrar – Mr Doug Marr at the following email address: Registrar@sydney.anglican.asn.au

D S Marr
Registrar
18 February 2015

(A copy of this notice has been emailed to Rectors, Wardens and Safe Ministry Representatives)