



Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITIES ASSESSMENT TOOL

FAQ

What is the Safeguarding Activities Assessment Tool (SAAT)?

The Safeguarding Activities Assessment Tool (SAAT) has been developed for application at the Parish / Agency levels based on the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) compliance audit criteria and indicators. The SAAT assesses compliance with the NCSS Parish/Agency specific criteria and indicators on behalf of *the Entity (Catholic Archdiocese of Perth—CAP)*.

The Safeguarding Activities Assessment Tool (SAAT) aligns with the:

- National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS)
- NCSS Criteria and Indicators
- Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL formerly Catholic Professional Standards) compliance audit criteria requirements, and
- ACSL Compliance Assessment Scale.

The SAAT contains Standards 1 to 10 that the Parish and Agency can apply in their self-assessment of safeguarding conformance level.

Why was the Safeguarding Activities Assessment Tool (SAAT) developed?

The SAAT replaces the Parish Self-Audit Form 11.

The SAAT has been developed as an assessment tool to guide users in understanding what the compliance requirements are, and what needs to be implemented.

The SAAT format reflects the Australian Catholic Services Limited (ACSL) Entity Assessment format providing synergy between the Parish/Agency and CAP levels.

To meet the 10 National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS), *the Entity (Catholic Archdiocese of Perth—CAP)* must meet all criteria and indicators. By achieving compliance with the NCSS at the Parish/Agency level, will contribute to the CAP meeting the criteria indicators.

Why change from a three-page Parish Self-audit format to SAAT format?

The Safeguarding Parish Self-Audit Form 11 no longer meets the requirements of the NCSS. To enable better compliance self-assessment at the Parish/Agency level, the SAAT provides guidance on what is applicable and what should be actioned using the criteria and indicators.

What is the Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL)?

“Australian Catholic Services Ltd (ACSL) merges existing entities and services: Catholic Professional Services Ltd (CPSL), the Australian Catholic Centre for Professional Standards and the Australian Catholic Ministry Register; bringing together national responsibilities for safeguarding into one entity. ACSL’s Members are the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC), Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) and the Association of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (AMPJP).”

Extract from CPSL Email dated 4 December 2020

ACSL recognizes that each Catholic entity has responsibilities for the safeguarding of children and adults at risk.

For further information on ACSL please follow the <https://www.acsltd.org.au/>



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What are the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS)?

The 10 National Catholic Safeguarding Standards are taken directly from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse final report, Volume 6.

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) are designed to be implemented by all Catholic entities, ministries, and organisations across Australia.

The NCSS constitute a framework for Catholic entities to promote the safety of children and adults at risk through the implementation of policies and activities that prevent, respond to and report concerns.

 Standard 1 7 Committed leadership, governance and culture	 Standard 6 18 Effective complaints management
 Standard 2 10 Children are safe, informed and participate	 Standard 7 21 Ongoing education and training
 Standard 3 11 Partnering with families, carers and communities	 Standard 8 23 Safe physical and online environments
 Standard 4 13 Equity is promoted and diversity is respected	 Standard 9 25 Continuous improvement
 Standard 5 14 Robust human resource management	 Standard 10 26 Policies and procedures support child safety

Do the NCSS link with the previous 12 Safeguarding Standards?

Yes, the 10 NCSS do link with the 12 former Safeguarding Standards that were previously applied.

Is the Safeguarding Handbook changing?

Yes, the current Safeguarding Handbook will become defunct. A new Edition Safeguarding Guidelines has been developed to meet the requirements of the NCSS.

Is the SAAT based on the NCSS or the First Edition Safeguarding Handbook?

Yes, the 2022 SAAT is based on the current Safeguarding Handbook data. The latest SAAT will be based on the new Edition Safeguarding Guidelines.



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What does the SAAT contain?

The SAAT contains four segments:

- I. Introduction - How to complete the SAAT & Assessment Scale.
- II. Cover sheet - Fill your Parish/Agency details and person/s undertaking the SAAT.
- III. Section 1 - Check the Conformance Level boxes as evidence of your NCSS capability.
- IV. Section 2 - Standards Action Plan

How do the Parishes/Agencies help with The Catholic Archdiocese of Perth with compliance?

The CAP encompasses 106 Parishes and 25 Agencies as a whole. Each Parish /Agency plays an integral part of the CAP's performance in meeting the NCSS criteria and indicators. A combined commitment by Parishes / Agencies to undertake the SAAT in alignment with the Safeguarding Guidelines, contributes to the Archdiocese meeting the national compliance audit indicators. Should a Parish / Agency not fulfil its NCSS obligations, then CAP does not meet the required NCSS.

Note: The CAP is audited by ACSL on the degree of compliance throughout the Archdiocese.

Why have Guidelines and the SAAT?

The SAAT is intrinsically linked to the Safeguarding Guidelines, and the 10 Standards. They complement each other and should be used together to ensure actions are implemented correctly. If you follow and action the Safeguarding Guidelines, you will follow the SAAT requirements and vice-versa. If you apply the Guidelines and the SAAT, you will be meeting the NCSS compliance requirements.

How many SAATs do I have to do?

If there is any mass centre within a community you only need to complete one SAAT e.g. a parish that has two or more two separate worship centres, each centre does not need to complete a separate SAAT.

One combined SAAT is completed in liaison with the Parish Priest / Agency Director and SGO/s and Parish Council.

Who completes the SAAT?

The SAAT is completed in liaison with the Parish Priest/Agency Directors and Safeguarding Officer/s.

Are instructions available on how to use and complete the SAAT?

Instructions on how to complete the SAAT are contained with the SAAT.

Can the SAAT be completed manually?

Yes, the SAAT can be printed and completed manually. However, the digital check and drop-down boxes will be disabled.

Where possible, the SAAT should be completed digitally using the provided template.



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This will allow users to:

- have full functionality (check and drop-down boxes, provide more space for content if needed etc.)
- name the document for referencing and retrieval
- enable digital distribution.

Where can the SAAT be accessed?

The SAAT template is accessible through the following Safeguarding Website link – under Continuous Improvement - <https://safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au/safeguarding-guidelines/>

If you have problems accessing the Template, please contact the Safeguarding Office.

Where can the Safeguarding Guidelines be accessed?

The Safeguarding Guidelines is accessible through the following link

<https://safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au/safeguarding-guidelines/>

Is training available?

Yes, please contact the Safeguarding Program Office.

Who checks the SAAT?

The Safeguarding Office will collate and review the SAATs submitted by Parishes and Agencies. A Risk-based approach will be applied to review the completed SAAT.

How can I get support?

If you require support for any aspects of the Safeguarding Guidelines and SAAT after exhausting other resources, please contact the Safeguarding Office.

Who will do the Catholic Archdiocese's compliance audit?

The audits/reviews will be undertaken by suitably qualified independent persons/entities in accordance with risk-based review criteria developed by ACSL.

“ACSL can undertake the audit/review if requested by a Catholic entity.”

ⁱ Source: <https://www.acsltd.org.au/>