



Anglican Diocese of Newcastle

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Dear Colleague,

Located here you will find an update regarding selection and accreditation of lay church workers at your parish. As you would be aware, the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle adopted the Model System for selection and accreditation of lay parish church workers as published by General Synod in 2004.

The importance of adhering to these protocols was highlighted in the recent report into sexual abuse in the Anglican Church conducted by Professor Patrick Parkinson and was identified as the first of eight key recommendations to come out of the report. It is therefore important that those responsible for the selection, recruitment, accreditation and ongoing management of lay parish church workers are familiar with these protocols and maintain efforts to ensure they are implemented and adhered to.

Please find available for download the following documents;

The Policy:

- 1) Model System for Selection and Accreditation of Lay Parish Workers (pdf file)

Supporting Documents:

- 2) Sample Ministry Position Template
- 3) Safe Ministry Check - Applicant
- 4) Safe Ministry Check - Referee
- 5) Safe Ministry Check - Volunteers
- 6) Sample Questions Referee Check
- 7) Screening Checklist

Could you please ensure that these documents are on hand at your parish and that those in relevant positions are utilising them appropriately. During the remainder of 2009 I will be making efforts to ensure these processes are in place in every parish in the Diocese of Newcastle. If you have any questions or concerns relating to this please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Elliott
Director of Professional Standards
Anglican Diocese of Newcastle