

- MEDIA RELEASE -

Continuous safeguarding improvement in focus as ACSL releases 2024 Annual Report

26 May 2025

An all-round commitment to continuous improvement and an emphasis on professional learning are the standout themes of Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd's (ACSL) 2024 annual report, released this month.

The report charts ACSL's progress in 2024 towards its mission of a safer Church for everyone by recapping key activities in its professional learning, audit, professional standards and complaints response, and database management functions.

ACSL Chief Executive Dr Ursula Stephens said she is proud of the work ACSL has achieved in the past year.

'2024 was a shift for ACSL by marking the first full year of a new funding model through membership subscriptions. I'm especially pleased that this report shows how we have taken on feedback to improve our service offering for our subscribers,' Dr Stephens said.

'The people we support who are working with children and adults at risk told us that they needed more online, accessible and flexible professional development opportunities, and we have responded by launching the ACSL Learning Platform with a range of modules to cater for different learner levels.'

'We have combined this with our very popular live learning series, which sees expert guest presenters leading webinars each month.'

'Over 1100 people signed up to the ACSL Learning Platform in 2024, and this number is growing as we move through 2025.'

'Beyond professional learning, our safeguarding audits program has matured, with a panel of external auditors recruited to undertake independent safeguarding audits of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS).'

'With a wider pool of auditors now available, we're closer to our goal of having all Australian Catholic Church Authorities audited against the NCSS.'

'This meaningful progress simply wouldn't be possible without the support of our Catholic leadership.'

'Our subscribers comprise over 100 Catholic organisations including dioceses, religious institutes, and Ministerial Public Juridic Persons that have collectively demonstrated their commitment to a whole of Church safeguarding approach by funding ACSL as the national office on safeguarding.'

'As we approach the halfway point of 2025, we are as busy as ever in our professional development and learning program and travelling the country to work with a range of Catholic organisations including schools, to strengthen their safeguarding approaches.'

'Through all our work, we are committed to keep our ears to the ground to better understand evolving safeguarding needs and risks so we can better support safeguarding efforts into the future,' Dr Stephens said.

The report is available on ACSL's [website](#).

ACSL works with Catholic entities to promote and oversee a nationally consistent, comprehensive and sustainable framework for the protection of children and adults at risk within the Church in Australia.