

SAFE CHURCH COMMUNITIES - April 2010

For distribution to clergy, coordinators, children's, families and youth leaders, newsletter editors

Dear everyone

As promised, here's an update on the Regional Safe Church Communities Coordinators. Robyn and Annette have started work and some of you may have already been contacted by them.

Contact Details:

Robyn's main working day is Friday but if you need to call her she will be available between 3.30 and 6.30 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays and between 7.30 and 9.00 pm on Wednesdays.

Annette Sims' working days are Wednesday and Thursday each week.

Although both Robyn and Annette have other part time jobs, they are happy to negotiate times for meeting with parishes and for training if these times do not suit.

They are happy for you to contact them by email and they will respond within twenty four hours.

Their email addresses are: robyn.reaburn@anglicantas.org.au and annette.sims@anglicantas.org.au.

Just a reminder about their role!

It is to assist parishes in making sure that parishes are safe and healthy communities by providing advice on the Safe Church Communities Program, running training sessions on ChildSafe and Faithfulness in Service and helping parishes to assess and manage risk.

'Revised Guidelines for parish safety where there is a risk of sexual abuse by a person of concern'

The above Guidelines are now available on the Diocesan website. You can view them by clicking on the link on the Safe Church Communities page.

After wide consultation, these Guidelines have been developed by the Professional Standards Commission appointed by General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia.

At its meeting on 16-18 October 2009, the General Synod Standing Committee resolved to recommend the final version of the guidelines as a resource for Dioceses. Our Diocese's Professional Standards Committee was involved in the development of the guidelines and the Bishop has accepted the Committee's recommendation that the Diocese adopt and implement them, if and when necessary.

Please take time to look at the guidelines.

Just a reminder to those whose safe ministry accreditation expired at the end of 2009 and who have not yet renewed their endorsement –if you are working with children and/or young people this is now **urgent!** The Safe Church Communities page on the Diocesan website has all the information you need - <http://www.anglicantas.org.au/about-safechurch/> . If you need help, please talk to Robyn or Annette, or if you are clergy to Margaret.

May God bless you as you carry out these important leadership roles.

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