



DIOCESE of TOOWOOMBA
RESPONDING to a Known Offender GUIDE
14 April 2023

RESPONDING positively to a known Child sexual abuse Offender ... living in the Community ...
A Guide for Parish Leadership personnel ...

- A) The person, on release from prison, is entitled to resume their place in the community with their family, provided there are no conditions set by a Court.
Their name and personal information will already be included on the Sexual Offenders Register. This Register is strictly confidential.
- B) Meet with the person.
The local Priest (or Parish leader) offers to meet with the person, building on relationships that may already have been formed with the person's family:
- a) to clarify information about their offence and imprisonment: to give the person an opportunity to tell their story themselves, providing first-hand information not unreliable comments from others;
 - b) to clarify any conditions placed on the person: full-term release, probation or parole;
 - c) to ask what their own hopes are as they re-join the community.
- C) Be clear about the safeguarding culture of the Parish community:
the best interests of children, young people and adults at risk come first
zero tolerance to all forms of abuse
- D) Be clear about Parish restrictions on the person, given the child-related nature of their offence:
no involvement with children in the Parish or School community:
through Parish Ministries: Children's Liturgy, Sacramental Programs, Youth Group, Altar Servers/Assistants, Children's Choir, Parish Playgroup (if exists)
through School activities or events unless the School Principal allows with appropriate safeguards in place
Given the child-related offence the person is excluded from holding a Blue Card and excluded from providing services to or offering activities for children (up to the age of eighteen years).
- E) Support the known offender in their personal journey of rebuilding their life.
Some known offenders welcome a formal Agreement with the Parish to guide their involvement and accountability.
Others appreciate an adult support person who comes to Mass with them, sits with them, alerts them to any situation they should avoid, encourages them to achieve their own hopes in life: a support person who listens and affirms while being direct and truthful.
- F) When appropriate and timely, a second meeting takes place between the local Priest (or Parish Leader) and the person involved, to review personal commitments and address any issues that may have arisen.
- G) Keep a confidential record of all meetings and discussions with the known offender and of any significant outcomes, actions or events that take place involving this person. Develop a Risk Assessment management plan. Review this Risk Plan on a regular basis.