

Annual Report heralds imminent release of National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

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In a year characterised by rapid development, robust engagement and shared expertise, Catholic Professional Standards Ltd is poised to publish the first edition of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards by the end of the year.

The release today of CPSL's 2017-18 Annual Report marks the first full year of operation of the company since the appointment of inaugural CEO, Sheree Limbrick in July 2017.

Speaking shortly after the release of the report Ms Limbrick said she is committed to doing what she can to ensure the lessons from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse remain a live issue for the leadership of the Catholic Church in Australia.

"The last 18 months have been dedicated to drafting the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and an accompanying audit framework," Ms Limbrick said.

New board members Professor the Hon Michael Lavarch AO, Dr Robyn Miller, Dr Kerrie Tuite and Dr Ruth Shean were appointed during 2017-18 joining Patricia Faulkner AO, the Hon John Watkins AM and Board Chair the Hon Geoff Giudice AO.

"Since July, a number of pilot audits have been completed and an extensive suite of support material, including a learning and development strategy has also been developed," Ms Limbrick said.

"We are in the final approval stage and expect to release the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards before the end of the year.

"It is encouraging to be engaging with so many Church Authorities who are very keen for the Standards to be finalised and published.

"Signing on to CPSL's Standards, auditing and reporting processes demonstrates a commitment by participating Church leadership to the transparency and accountability called for by the Royal Commission," Ms Limbrick said.

Catholic Professional Standards Ltd was established by the leadership of the Catholic Church during the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse to develop national safeguarding standards, to audit the compliance of Church Authorities with those standards and to publicly report the results. CPSL is functionally independent of the Church.

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