

Work Health Safety & Injury Management Policy

2024 – 2027

The Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc. (CCES) and the Separately Incorporated entities are committed to promoting a positive safety & injury management culture through active engagement at all levels of the organisation, including Officers, workers, volunteers, contractors, clients, and others who may be impacted by CCES operations.

All managers are responsible and accountable for the workplace health and safety of themselves, workers, and others under their control. Furthermore, these individuals are responsible for their own health and safety and have a duty to work safely and in accordance with all our health and safety requirements. Refer to Responsibility, Authorities & Accountability Matrices and Position Descriptions.

We will enable a positive safety & injury management culture with the following actions:

1. Complying with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)*, the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA)*, Codes of Practices, Australian Standards, and Industry related standards, and the *Return-to-Work Act 2014 (SA)* and *Return to Work Regulations 2015 (SA)*, Service Standards and Code of Conduct for Self-Insured Employers and associated documentation.
2. Establishing processes that regularly evaluate and reinforce safe work behaviours, understand the context of the way work is done, and ensure that effective risk control strategies are implemented.
3. Ensuring worker feedback is solicited to identify strengths and weaknesses of the safety and injury management system.
4. Establishing processes to ensure safety trends are identified and analysed and provide sufficient resources both internal and external to support the delivery of effective improvement plans.
5. Establishing measurable health and safety, injury management objectives and targets to ensure continuous improvement aimed at the elimination of work-related illness and injury.
6. Developing, maintaining, and reviewing a documented [Work Health Safety & Injury Management System](#).
7. Providing appropriate health, safety and injury management training and education to all workers and ensure relevant safety and injury management information is available to workers and others in the workplace.
8. Ensuring workers are encouraged, supported, and empowered to participate in safety and injury management processes.
9. Ensuring the Work Health Safety & Injury Management Policy is effectively implemented, communicated, and made publicly available.

Dr Carlo D'Ortenzio

Diocesan Financial Administrator
Nominated Officer



Signature

Date 23.1.2024

INTRODUCTION

The Catholic Church in South Australia manages work health safety and injury management as a self-insured employer, acting for itself and the identified Separately Incorporated entities that align to the Church for this purpose.

Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc. (CCES) has signed an Updated Deed for Substituted Arrangements with Return-To-Work SA to manage all workers compensation claims in South Australia.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU)

The PCBU for the Catholic Church in South Australia is the CCES and each of the Separately Incorporated entities who are included in the Registration.

Each PCBU has the responsibility to provide a healthy and safe workplace for their workers and a responsibility to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable the:

- provision and maintenance of a work environment with risks to health and safety removed or reduced.
- provision of safe plant, structures, and safe systems of work.
- safe use, handling and storage of plant, structures, and substances.
- provision of and access to adequate facilities for the welfare of workers at work.
- provision of information, training, instruction, and supervision that is needed to protect all persons from risks to their health and safety when undertaking work being undertaken for the PCBU.
- health of workers and the conditions at the workplace are monitored for the purpose of preventing illness or injury arising from the conduct of the business or undertaking.

The PCBU also has a responsibility to ensure:

- steps are taken to provide suitable duties for injured workers in accordance with medical advice and reasonable direction from Director Catholic Safety & Injury Management (CSaIM) / Lawson Risk Management (Lawson) and in accordance with the *Return-to-Work Act 2014*.

Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc. (CCES)

CCES is empowered to coordinate and act on behalf of the worksites within the Indenture to:

- define a Governance structure for work health safety and injury management in the Church.
- review the work health safety and injury management system in collaboration with CSaIM and workers.
- ensure internal and external resources are utilised where required.
- work in partnership with Return-to-Work SA (RTWSA).
- comply with the Deed for Updated Substituted Arrangements between CCES and RTWSA.

Separately Incorporated Entities

The Separately Incorporated entities are, for the purpose of Work Health and Safety and Injury Management in South Australia, a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU)

The Separately Incorporated entities will:

- comply with the duties of the PCBU as above.
- conform with the requirements of the CCES work health safety and injury management system.

Self-Insured Governing Council (SIGC)

A Council is appointed by the Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc. on behalf of itself and the separately incorporated entities within the Registration. The Governing Council will:

- oversee and direct the CCES work health safety and injury management system.
- ensure that the current WHS and Injury Management Plan is implemented.
- monitor and review work health safety and injury management performance.
- ensure CCES is compliant with the Service Standards and the Code of Conduct for self-insurers.
- provide a regular report of work health and safety performance and activities to the Executive of the Curia, Archdiocese of Adelaide.
- develop, review, and comply with SIGC Terms of Reference.
- work in partnership with RTWSA.
- make decisions for and on behalf of the Registration, to protect the integrity and spirit of the self-insurance registration.

Officers

An Officer in CCES in South Australia is a person:

- who makes, or participates in making, decisions that affect the whole, or a substantial part, of the business of the corporation.
- who has the capacity to significantly affect the corporation's financial standing.

A person may hold more than one duty by virtue of being in more than one class of duty holder.

An Officer, of CCES and each Separately Incorporated entity, must exercise due diligence to ensure that the PCBU complies with its health and safety duties including taking reasonable steps to:

- acquire and keep up to date knowledge of work health and safety matters.
- gain an understanding of the operations of the business of the PCBU.
- gain an understanding of the hazards and risks associated with the operations of the PCBU.
- ensure that the PCBU has available for use and uses, appropriate resources and processes to eliminate or minimise risks to health and safety.
- ensure that the PCBU has appropriate processes for receiving and considering information regarding incidents, hazards and risks and responds in a timely way to that information.
- ensure that the PCBU has and implements processes for complying with any duty or obligation of the PCBU under the Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA).
- verify the provision and use of resources and processes required to manage risks to health and safety and legal compliance.
- ensure IM responsibilities for the PCBU are completed within appropriate guidelines and within a reasonable time frame.

Catholic Safety & Injury Management South Australia (CSaIM)

CCES Safety & Injury Prevention Unit operating as Catholic Safety & Injury Management is empowered for and on behalf of the CCES and the Separately Incorporated entities to:

- develop and implement policies and procedures to maintain WHS and IM in accordance with legislation and best practice.
- assist and support worksites in the management of work health safety and injury management.
- to identify and assist worksites to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and other requirements.
- retain and maintain documentation for and on behalf of the Registration.
- provide Injury Management service to all workers of the Registration, including:
 - Early intervention and management for injured workers through continued liaison, education and communication with employers, worker representatives and injured workers.
 - case management and resolution of all claims made against worksites of the Registration within all relevant legal and procedural parameters.
 - supporting the provision of recovery and return to work plans and support to injured workers and worksites in full consultation, with the Rehabilitation Return to Work Co-ordinator (RRTWC) and/or the site delegate and other relevant parties when required.
 - monitoring recovery and return to work plans to ensure return to work goals are achieved.
 - timely and effective file reviews, for ongoing claims, to assist in claim resolution.
 - provision of injury management training, advice, and assistance to worksites.
 - ongoing care and assistance for seriously injured workers in accordance with all legal requirements and internal procedures.
- administer and collect levies from worksites within the Registration.
- prepare and present reports to the SIGC and sector WHS Committees where required.
- utilise appropriate skilled and experienced external advisors to assist in the management of claims and rehabilitation.
- recover payments from Third Parties or injured workers when appropriate.
- provide data to Return to Work SA on behalf of the Registration.

Managers and Supervisors

Managers and Supervisors who are not deemed to be Officers within the organisation but manage a budget and/or have supervisory responsibilities must follow the same duties as all workers (see below)

Workers

Any person who is carrying out work in any capacity (paid, in-kind and volunteer) for a person conducting a business or undertaking must:

- take reasonable care for his or her own safety.
- take reasonable care not to adversely affect the health and safety of others in the workplace.

- comply, so far as reasonably able, with any reasonable instruction that is given by the PCBU to protect the health and safety of persons in the workplace.
- co-operate with any reasonable policy or procedure of the PCBU relating to health and safety at the workplace that has been notified to the worker.
- comply with any reasonable direction issued by CSaIM / Lawson in relation to a claim or return to work of an injured worker.

FUNCTIONS and RIGHTS

Work Health & Safety Committees

Where a worksite has established a work health and safety committee the functions of that group are to:

- facilitate co-operation between the PCBU and workers in instigating, developing, and carrying out measures designed to ensure workers' health and safety at work.
- assist in developing standards, rules and procedures relating to health and safety that are to be followed or complied with at the workplace.
- undertake any other functions prescribed by the Work Health & Safety Regulations 2012 or agreed between the PCBU and the committee.

If a Work Health and Safety Committee is not established in a worksite, then the site must have an agreed method of consultation in place (e.g., an item at general staff meetings) to carry out the functions of a health and safety committee.

Health and Safety Representatives (HSR's)

CCES worksites acknowledge the legal rights and functions of elected HSR's and support them to carry out their role of representing a work group effectively.

Where a worksite has an elected HSR the PCBU will ensure that the HSR is entitled to:

- represent the workers in their work group in matters relating to work health and safety.
- monitor measures taken by the PCBU or their representative, in compliance with the Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA) in relation to workers in the work group.
- investigate complaints from members of the work group relating to work health and safety.
- inquire into anything that appears to be a risk to the health or safety of workers in the work group, arising from the conduct of the PCBU.

In exercising a power or function the HSR can:

- inspect a workplace at any time.
- accompany an Inspector during an inspection of the workplace.
- at the consent of the worker, be present at any interview concerning work health and safety.
- request the establishment of a health and safety committee.
- receive information regarding health and safety or work group members.
- issue a Provisional Improvement Notice (PIN) or direct cessation of unsafe work.

A HSR is not personally liable for anything done or not done in good faith while carrying out their role.

MONITOR

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored by:

- review of overall WHS and IM performance through the SIGC.
- review of the CCES Safety and Injury Management System and associated procedures.

INFORMATION/ INSTRUCTION

All workers will be informed of the requirements of the Work Health Safety and Injury Management Policy during induction. When this policy is reviewed and/or amended existing workers will be informed.

REVIEW

This policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years by SIGC in consultation with CCES workers. Changes in legislation will require earlier review of this policy.

