

The canon also sets a timetable for the coming into force of particular provisions, to allow dioceses to prepare. The standards of screening and training, and provisions as to a diocesan 'safe ministry authority' come into force on 1 January 2018. The standards for safe ministry with persons of concern, and provisions as to audits, come into force on 1 January 2019.¹⁰³

It is evident from our review of the canon that the ultimate effectiveness of the proposed national initiative will rely on each of the 23 Anglican dioceses adopting its terms. The canon states that:

The provisions of this canon affect the order and good government of the Church within a diocese and shall not come into force in a diocese unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts this canon.¹⁰⁴

A diocese can also subsequently exclude the canon pursuant to section 30(d) of the Anglican Constitution.¹⁰⁵

We encourage all 23 dioceses to adopt the proposed measure to ensure there is a uniform approach to child safe standards in the Anglican Church of Australia.

We note, however, the emergence of another model that, in our view, could also achieve the implementation of nationally consistent standards in relation to child safety for the Anglican Church. During the *Institutional review of Anglican Church institutions* hearing we received evidence that the dioceses of Melbourne and Bendigo have established an independent corporate entity called Kooyoora Ltd. The initial members of the corporation will be the Bendigo Anglican Diocesan Corporation Ltd and the Melbourne Anglican Diocesan Corporation Ltd.¹⁰⁶ The Diocese of Wangaratta has indicated that it intends to be a client of the corporation.¹⁰⁷

In a statement provided to us as part of the *Institutional review of Anglican Church institutions* hearing, Mr Michael Shand QC, Chancellor of the Diocese of Melbourne and member of the Professional Standards Commission, told us that the role of the 'independent scheme corporation' will be to administer complaints and clearance regimes as well as any Church redress scheme.¹⁰⁸

Mr Shand QC told us that the corporate approach was a compromise between acknowledging the autonomy of dioceses, and the need for a common and independent approach.¹⁰⁹ He told us:

We see that independence as really important. It is really important to winning back the confidence of the community in the church through setting up an independent process, governed by a very clearly defined process. In effect, we would see this winning back the confidence and trust of the community.

The way we do that would be to committing to a common process through this common body that could operate nationally, but committing to it, so that when the question is asked, ‘Well, what confidence do you have that in future the church will appropriately respond? Boards change, councils change, bishops change, they come and go.’ We commit to a legislated process that we would say is transparent and independent and can stand scrutiny, and it will endure into the future, and it will be the set of rules and expectations by which bishops, clergy and lay people operate within their own diocese.¹¹⁰

We acknowledge that the purpose of the independent scheme corporation is restricted to managing the complaint handling process for the Diocese of Melbourne and others. While it is not something that we explored at the hearing, an independent corporate entity could in fact operate nationally and have within its remit the implementation of consistent child safe standards across all Anglican Church dioceses.

As discussed in Section 12.5, ‘Contemporary Anglican Church responses to child sexual abuse’, the General Synod recently adopted the *Redress for the Survivors of Abuse Canon 2017*. The canon authorises the Standing Committee to establish an independent corporate entity for purpose of co-ordinating and managing redress for survivors of child sexual abuse in the Anglican Church. Among other things, it will engage with the Australian Government redress scheme on behalf of Anglican dioceses and associated institutions.

In Section 12.6, ‘Contributing factors in the Anglican Church’, we discuss the structural and cultural barriers to national consistency that exist within the Anglican Church. An independent corporate entity may resolve some of those barriers by placing responsibility for national child safe standards outside the often slow decision-making processes of synods.

20.3.3 The Salvation Army

National Professional Standards Council

During *Case Study 49: Institutional review of The Salvation Army, Australia Eastern Territory and Australia Southern Territory (Institutional review of The Salvation Army)*, we heard that in 2014 The Salvation Army Eastern Territory and The Salvation Army Southern Territory formed a National Professional Standards Council (NPSC).¹¹¹ According to the preamble to the NPSC’s terms of reference, its purpose is to ‘ensure, among other things, that abuse such as occurred in the children’s homes run by The Salvation Army in Australia pre-1990s should never happen again’.¹¹²