



Health, Safety and Environment policy

Rationale

This policy exists to comply with legislative duties and obligations and to assist each school and the Catholic Schools Office in developing, promoting and maintaining a safe and healthy working environment. It demonstrates our commitment to the prevention of ill health, injury and pollution and invokes our social, moral and ethical beliefs as Catholics in relation to health, safety and the environment.

Definitions

Health, Safety and Environmental Management System (HSEMS) is part of an organisation's management system used to develop and implement its health, safety and environment policy, and manage its occupational health and safety risks and environmental aspects.¹

Environmental aspects are the elements of the organisation's activities, products, or services that can interact with the environment (the air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and interrelationships).

Environmental impacts are any changes to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organisation's activities, products or services.

Workers are employees, contractors, subcontractors, outworkers, apprentices and trainees, work experience students, volunteers and persons conducting a business undertaking who are individuals if they perform work for the business.

Legislative references

- Work, Health and Safety Act 2011 (Qld)
- Work, Health and Safety Regulation 2011 (Qld)
- Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld)

Values

Maintaining and promoting the dignity, safety and wellbeing of people are central to the teachings of the Catholic faith tradition. We are committed to upholding the health, safety and welfare of people who use Catholic Schools Office and school facilities, and to positive stewardship of the environment.

Policy statement

The Catholic Schools Office and schools, on behalf of the Catholic Diocese of Toowoomba will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health and safety of students, workers and other persons present on Catholic Schools Office and school premises, and comply with the Work Health and Safety Act and Regulation 2011 (Qld), Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld), Codes of Practice and Australian Standards relevant to Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) hazards and aspects.

Consequences

- The Catholic Schools Office will develop HSEMSs based on relevant legislation, codes of practice and standards.
- The Catholic Schools Office and schools must implement the HSEMS.
- Resources will be provided by the Catholic Schools Office and schools for maintaining and improving the safety system.

¹ adapted from International Standard: OHSAS 18001 and AS/NZS ISO 14001



- The Catholic Schools Office and schools will provide work health and safety training, education and supervision to students and workers.
- The Catholic Schools Office and schools will collaboratively: define the responsibilities and accountabilities of personnel; establish consultative mechanisms; set measurable objectives and targets; and determine significant environmental aspects and their environmental impacts; and monitor the system.
- The Catholic Schools Office and schools will implement checking mechanisms and performance and management review mechanisms to ensure continuous improvement.
- Compliance with all applicable HSE legislation, codes of practice, relevant Australian standards is to be monitored and evaluated by the Catholic Schools Office and schools.
- A copy of this policy is to be made available as required to regulatory authorities, suppliers, contractors, customers and those visiting diocesan education facilities.

Most Reverend Robert McGuckin | Bishop of Toowoomba