



**Office of Safeguarding
Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle**

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Bishop's Healing Fund

www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

The Bishop's Healing Fund

The Bishop's Healing Fund is an annual budgetary allocation by the Bishop of Maitland-Newcastle of up to \$25,000 to assist in promoting the healing of those affected by child sexual abuse in the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese

This fund is managed by the Standing Committee for Healing & Support which is a part of the Diocesan Safety & Child Protection Council. This Standing Committee was established to:

- ▶ Provide guidance and support to the Manager Healing and Support in the strategic development and direction of Healing and Support (Zimmerman Service)
- ▶ Review current practices and identify emerging practices in the provision of services to affected persons, with a view to possible application of these practices, or parts thereof, within the Diocese
- ▶ Receive and respond to submissions, requests or statements made by affected persons to the Committee or its individual members, as to issues of concern relevant to the Diocese
- ▶ Develop and conduct a transparent process for selecting the preferred recipient or recipients of the fixed annual amount allocated by the Bishop promoting healing for those affected by historical child sexual abuse within the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.

The Healing Fund's target groups are those affected by child sexual abuse perpetrated by church personnel in this Diocese and those residing in this Diocese who have been affected by child sexual abuse perpetrated by a member of a religious order or another Diocese.

Applications may be made by individuals who were victims of abuse or the close relative or supporter/friend of individuals who were victims of abuse. A close relative includes but is not restricted to the parent, partner, biological, step or de facto child or sibling.

The activities eligible for funding include but are not limited to workshops, presentations, events or other projects or initiatives designed to promote healing or wellness amongst those affected by abuse.

Applications seeking funding of \$5,000 or less, will be determined by the Committee. Applications over \$5,000 will be assessed by the Committee and, if supported, the application will be placed before the Council for determination.

Should the Healing Fund be exhausted prior to the close of the funding cycle, any further successful applications may be placed in a queue for funding from the next allocation of funds.

To learn more about the Bishop's Healing Fund or to make an application please contact us.

Application forms may also be accessed from the website www.officeofsafeguarding.org.au

