Eparchial application 10
National Standards v.1

Standard	Melkite Catholic Eparchial Compliance Guidelines
Standard 1 **Leadership & Culture**	Child safety is deeply embedded in eparchial leadership and parish councils. Leadership reviews performance quarterly and implements active, visible safeguarding protections across all ministries.
Standard 2 **Children's Participation**	Minors are heard, respected, and involved in parish decision-making. Their feedback is actively sought during catechism, youth activities, and Scout ministries, ensuring they feel empowered in their church home.
Standard 3 **Families & Communities**	Our safeguarding policies, behavioral codes, and reporting structures are shared transparently with families and parents, empowering them to actively support safe parish practices.
Standard 4 **Equity & Diversity**	Vulnerabilities are actively addressed, with strict respect for cultural safety in CALD and migrant communities. We provide inclusive, tailored communication supports for participants with physical or cognitive disabilities.
Standard 5 **Suitable Workers**	We enforce standard, rigorous human resource processes: 100-point ID checks, online Working with Children Check (WWCC) validations, and Double-Referee screening. Self-verification is strictly prohibited under our Rule of Independent Verification.
Standard 6 **Complaints Processes**	Child-focused and accessible complaints channels are established. Anyone has the complete, immediate statutory right to report concerns to civil authorities without requiring internal church approval.
Standard 7 **Continual Education**	Mandatory ongoing training is enforced. All active clergy, staff, and volunteers must complete compulsory online eLearning (NSW OCG modules, SAFESpace, NZ Children's Act training) and annual clergy boundary refreshers.
Standard 8 **Safe Environments**	Physical and online environments are strictly managed to minimize opportunities for abuse. This includes unlocked, clear-glass confessionals, clear sightlines in counseling offices, public double-adult group chats, and a strict ban on personal-device photography.
Standard 9 **Continuous Improvement**	We systematically analyze complaints, feedback, and near-miss incidents. LSOs and Parish Priests must jointly complete and file the formal annual NCSS self-assessment audit to address local operational gaps.
Standard 10 **Documented Policies**	A comprehensive, publicly accessible library of local safety codes, risk templates, and compliance manuals is maintained. We enforce a permanent, access-controlled document retention schedule to preserve safety records.