



# Professional Responsibilities and Boundaries

MANDATORY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
FOR ACTIVE CLERGY  
2026



The mandatory professional development component for active clergy in the Anglican Diocese of Perth for 2026 is **Professional Responsibilities and Boundaries**.

A range of sessions have been planned across the breadth of our Diocese so that no-one need travel too far, and to embed our learning in local community.

Places in each session are limited, so please register asap.

## From the Safe Ministry Commission 2021 -

Professional responsibilities and boundaries.

These include the legal and church frameworks that protect ministers and those they serve in ministry. This includes protection from physical and psychological harm and ensures safe working environments for ministry.

Over the course of a three-year cycle, professional responsibilities and boundaries should include:

- personal boundaries (uses of personal information, privacy, discussing personal issues, taking work home, accessibility of the minister);
- professional boundaries (workplace behaviours, respectful communication, inclusivity, safety (some resources available at <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au>), confidentiality, receiving and giving gifts, inappropriate personal, emotional, physical and sexual contact, verbal and physical aggression);
- relevant standards and guidelines, including those in Faithfulness in Service.

## From the Archbishop -

Faithful ministry is grounded in trust, and clear professional boundaries are essential to safeguarding that trust – for those we serve and for those who serve.

By engaging thoughtfully with the canonical, pastoral and theological dimensions of ministry practice, these sessions will strengthen safe, sustainable and Christ-centred leadership across our communities.

While this professional development component is a required part of our shared commitment to good ministry, I encourage all clergy to approach it with openness and wholehearted participation, for the wellbeing of the Church and the integrity of our common vocation.

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## Our time together will include -

- a brief Biblical reflection,
  - content (definitions, boundary frameworks, distinguishing between boundary crossings and boundary violations, relevant Diocesan standards and guidelines etc),
  - exploring scenarios, and
  - time for facilitated reflection on one's own personal and professional boundaries.
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# Overview

Clarity that protects. Care that endures.

Strengthening professional responsibility for safe, sustainable ministry.

Ministry carries profound professional responsibilities. We are entrusted with people's stories, vulnerabilities, and hopes, and this trust shapes the way we lead, listen, and care.

Within this calling, boundaries are not obstacles to ministry but essential practices that help us offer care that is safe, ethical, and sustainable.

Scripture itself frames responsibility and limits as part of faithful leadership. Even Jesus, whose compassion is deep and expansive, lives within clear boundaries. He withdraws from the crowds, declines certain requests, and does not meet every need (Mark 1:35–38). These choices are not signs of indifference but of vocation held with integrity. Boundaries, in this sense, become pastoral discipline.

This matters especially in ministry where relationships are shaped by asymmetrical power—trust, vulnerability, authority, and expectation. The prophets warn of the harm that occurs when leaders blur these lines or allow personal needs to shape pastoral relationships (Ezekiel 34). Professional boundaries are therefore not bureaucratic requirements; they are practices that protect dignity, prevent harm, and keep care trustworthy.

There is also a theological truth at stake.

Boundaries remind us that we are finite. We offer our gifts to God's work, but we do not bear it alone. To say this is as far as I can go is an expression of faith — trusting that God continues the work we cannot.

Professional supervision helps us hold this perspective with clarity. It invites us to ask not only *What am I permitted to do?* but *What is mine to do—and what is not?* It offers space to notice where our history, theology, or desire to be helpful may push us toward patterns that feel generous but are ultimately unsustainable or unsafe.

Holding boundaries is not stepping back from ministry's demands. It is locating ourselves truthfully within them so that our care remains ethical, durable, and grounded in the Gospel we serve.

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## SESSIONS

- Tuesday 18th August 10.00am – 1.00pm  
Wollaston Theological College  
*Specifically for retired clergy holding a PTO*  
[Register here.](#)
- Wednesday 19th August 12.30pm–3.30pm  
St Christopher's, City Beach  
[Register here.](#)
- Tuesday 25th August 10.00am – 1.00pm  
St Swithin's, Lesmurdie  
[Register here.](#)
- Tuesday 1st September 9.00am – 12.00pm  
St Edmund's, Wembley  
[Register here.](#)
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 10am – 1pm  
St Brendan's, Warnbro  
*Specifically for retired clergy holding a PTO*  
[Register here.](#)
- Thursday 3rd September 12.00pm - 3.00pm  
St Andrew's, Thornlie  
[Register here.](#)
- Thursday 10th September 1.00pm – 4.00pm  
St Augustine's, Como-Manning  
[Register here.](#)
- Friday 11th September 1.00pm – 4.00pm  
Anglicschools House  
*Specifically for Schools Chaplains*  
[Register here.](#)
- Tuesday 15th September 1.00pm – 4.00pm  
St Anselm's, Kingsley  
[Register here.](#)
- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 10am - 1pm  
Holy Trinity, Malaga  
*Specifically for Sudanese Clergy*  
[Register here.](#)
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 9am - 12.00pm  
St Barnabas, Rivervale  
[Register here.](#)
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