

Report Health and Safety for Waiapu Cathedral Feb 2024

Operating a “Health and Safety portfolio” under the sticker of “**Earthquake Prone building**” provides an interesting dilemma. The sticker was applied in Oct 2023

The building one day is ok and the next is EQ prone. My understanding of this is that it would take a big quake of 8 plus to do any damage in which case there would be considerable damage in the town generally. We must be prepared. To that effect one of the precautions taken is to advise at each large gathering in the Cathedral what one is to do in the event of an earthquake. Specific rules are in place for entry to the Bell Tower which is one of the identified risks in the building.

Given this scenario – work has been undertaken to identify everyday health and safety issues.

Trip hazards in the carpet and on changes to surfaces levels. One needing addressing in particular is the ramp installed in the sanctuary with no visual sides and an extremely textured surface to make pushing a chair on it almost impossible. The repair work is yet to be done.

Fire extinguishers have been tested and replaced in the building with suitable sizes and slightly less in number and adding an additional type installed next to the main power box in the vestibule at the base of the Bell Tower.

Various electric cords need regular inspection and reapplying of tape to reduce the risks of a trip hazard.

Falls and cuts are an everyday risk, regular updating of **First Aid Kits** are now labelled and accessible both at the front and back of the building. **First Aid training** has been implemented for those who hold voluntary positions within the parish life. A register is held in the office for recording onsite accidents. The **AED** has been moved to be more accessible to the body of the Cathedral.

Safeguard training has been implemented by the Diocese, again for all who serve in a voluntary capacity.

Ormond Chapel: requires one new Fire extinguisher. The building continues to be poorly accessible for the disabled and for funeral processions. Discussions re ramps have been started, this will be done in consultation with a heritage architect