



SAFEGUARDING AND MINISTERIAL INTEGRITY OFFICE

September/October 2022 Quarterly Newsletter

Welcome to the Safeguarding Office's Quarterly Newsletter

This Issue:

Safeguarding News:

- Welcome Kristie Benedetti
- Changes to Working With Children Check Legislation
- OCG's Working With Children Check Audit

Safeguarding Training:

- 2022 Youth Ministry Safeguarding Training
- Train the Trainer Packages
- Volunteer Refresher Training

Continuous Improvement and meeting Standards:

- 2022 Child Protection Week
- Self-Assessment
- Visiting Clergy Protocols

Sharing Knowledge:

- Recording Safeguarding Concerns and Complaints



Safeguarding News

Welcome Kristie Benedetti:

The Safeguarding Office would like to take this opportunity to announce that Kristie Benedetti has joined the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office in the position of Senior Case Manager.



Kristie has been working in the child protection field since 2009, starting out on the frontline at the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). More recently Kristie was working to support schools in the Wollongong Diocese in managing the safety, welfare and wellbeing of their students, Kristie has experience in both the public and Catholic Education systems.

Clergy Conference:

The Safeguarding Team attend the recent Clergy Conference at Rosehill race course. We would like to thank all the Clergy who provided feedback, had a friendly chat and took resources for their community.



The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary, with the feast day of Our Lady of the Rosary celebrated on the 7 October. In this month of October, let us consider the beautiful prayer of the Rosary as a means that we too can use to draw closer to God by meditating on the great mysteries.

Safeguarding News Cont.

Office of the Children's Guardian

Working With Children Check Legislation Changes

From the 1 September 2022, changes were made to the Working With Children Check (**WWCC**) Legislation. These changes have been made to strengthen the Working with Children Check to further protect children.

Below are some of the changes made to the WWCC Legislation as of 1 September 2022:

- All new and existing applicants for a Working with Children Check will be continuously screened at a national level to determine if they were barred from working with children in another Australian State or Territory.
- Some animal cruelty offences will automatically bar people from working with children.
- Heads of child safe organisations will be required to hold a Working with Children Check.

Working With Children Check Audits

The Office of the Children's Guardian (**OCG**) have announced that as part of their compliance program, they are planning audits of selected religious organisations towards the end of the year.

Do organisations have to take part in audits?

Yes. As an employer in child-related work, you have responsibilities under the law. Refusing to participate in the audit may lead to the organisation receiving a fine for non-compliance with the Act.

What happens if an organisation is not compliant?

Penalties can apply if the OCG find breaches, however part of the OCG's audit process is to help organisations learn about what they need to do to meet the requirements of the WWCC.

The Safeguarding Office has not yet heard if the Archdiocese of Sydney will be part of the OCG's planned audits. In order to stay prepared please ensure you are maintaining your [Child-Related Activity Register \(Register\)](#) and that you have submitted your Register for the period of January - June 2022 to the Safeguarding Office. Further information will be released once the Safeguarding Office is informed.



Office of the
Children's Guardian

Commitment Statement

The emotional, physical and spiritual safety, well-being and dignity of Children is an integral part of the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. The Archdiocese is wholly committed to ensuring the safety, well-being and dignity of all Children, and acknowledges its important legal, moral and spiritual responsibility to create a safe and nurturing environment for those Children.



Youth Ministry Safeguarding Training

Youth Ministry Team Leaders and Youth Ministry Leaders are required to attend Level 1 Youth Ministry Safeguarding and Child Protection Training. The next Youth Ministry training session will be held on **Saturday, 15 October 2022, 10am - 2pm at St Thomas of Canterbury, Lewisham** (in the parish hall). To register your Youth Ministry Leaders for this training please click [here](#) or contact Anna Sammut on 9390 5811 or email safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org. If you are unsure if your Youth Ministry Leaders have completed training please contact Anna.

Train the Trainer Package for Safeguarding Support Officers

It is a requirement for all PSSO's and CSSO's to attend the 'train the trainer' package, as this package provides support to all PSSO's and CSSO's in presenting the new Refresher Training Package to volunteers in their Communities. Below are the new dates that have been released

- Thursday 20 October, 10am - 1.15pm
- Monday 7 November, 5pm - 8pm
- Wednesday 16 November, 10am - 1.15pm

The above sessions will be held via Zoom and face to face in the Polding Centre. To register for the training please email Anna Sammut (safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org) the date you would like to attend as well as if you will be attending via Zoom or face to face.

Safeguarding Refresher Training for Volunteers

Just a reminder that the Online Safeguarding Refresher Training for volunteers is available via zoom or online. It is mandatory within the Archdiocese and a requirement in terms of meeting our obligations under the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (Standard 7), that every three years Volunteers complete refresher Safeguarding Training.

Volunteers can register for the new Refresher Training via this link <https://forms.gle/XQTnkQwfWQ4Rfwxx9> (which is a different link from the other online training registrations) if they wish to complete training online. The Refresher training is also available via Zoom, on the following dates

- Tuesday 18 October, 9am - 10am
- Wednesday 26 October, 4pm - 5pm
- Thursday 17 November, 9am - 10am

Volunteers can register their attendance by emailing safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney is implementing the 10 Child Safe Standards and 10 National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.



Office of the
Children's Guardian



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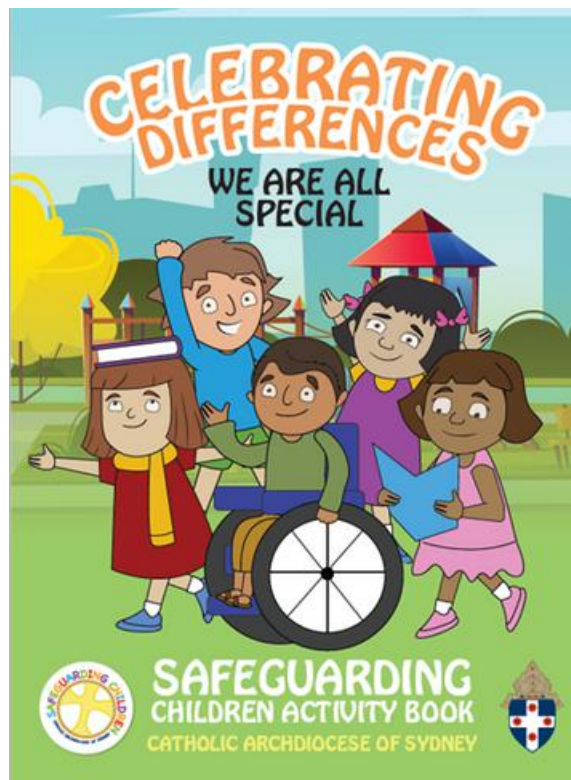


Continuous Improvement and Meeting Standards

2022 Child Protection Week - Celebrating Differences in our Community

On Sunday 11 September the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney celebrated National Child Protection Week for the sixth year in a row. This year's theme was Celebrating Differences. Child Protection Week provides us with an opportunity to reflect on how we celebrate and embrace differences within our community.

To help us reflect, the Safeguarding Office has developed a new resource for Children; the *Celebrating Differences – We are all special- Activity Book*. The Celebrating Differences Activity Book is for Children aged between 3 – 12 years. It has been designed for Children to help them recognise and celebrate differences and diversity within our community and the world. The activity book informs Children about different cultures and religions and how they are celebrated around the world. The Safeguarding Office hopes that this book will help Children to recognise and celebrate differences and diversity within our Archdiocese.



This resource can be accessed on the Safeguarding [website](#):

The Safeguarding Office would like to especially thank all the Parishes that promoted the Child Protection Week competition. We received a great response from the Children of the Archdiocese, the winning designs can be viewed in the Activity Book.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney acknowledges the Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants of the nation and the traditional custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.

(Cont.)

Self-Assessments

2021 Parish Self-Assessment Report Findings:

The 2021 Parish Self-Assessment was a scaled down version of the previous years Self-Assessment, with a stronger focus on providing evidence base responses. The Self-Assessment was broken up into ten sections and each of these sections had 2 - 3 questions that reflected the 10 National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, developed by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd. The Archdiocese has 135 parishes and 142 individual churches, chapels or shrines (Church entities) within those Parishes. A Self-Assessment was expected for each individual church, chapel or shrine.

- 85 Church entities achieved results between 75%-100% compliance
- 44 Church entities achieved results between 50% - 74%
- 13 Church entities achieved results 50% and lower

2022 Self-Assessment

With Safeguarding Parish and Agency Visitations completed, the Safeguarding Office in the following weeks will be releasing via email the 2022 Self-Assessment for Parish, Agencies and Chaplaincy Communities.

The 2022 Safeguarding Self-Assessment has been developed using Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd's (ACSL) Self-Assessment of Compliance. Anna Sammut will be responsible for the Parish Self-Assessment, while Kristie Benedetti will look after Chaplaincy Community and Agency Self-Assessments. Please be on the lookout for Anna and Kristie's 2022 Safeguarding Self-Assessment email in the coming weeks.

Visiting Clergy Protocols

All clergy engaged in public ministry require habitual Faculties granted by the Bishop of the place in which they reside and/or exercise their appointed ministry. Whenever clergy move to minister in another diocese or parish, they require Permission to Minister in that new situation from the appropriate authority. Such permission can only be granted when a cleric's Bishop or Ordinary has testified to his good standing and his Working With Children Check (WWCC) has been verified by the receiving diocese or parish. There are various procedures for obtaining permission to minister in another diocese depending on where a cleric is incardinated and on which documentation is available.

Please remind any Visiting Clergy that are attending your Parish or Community that they must sign the Visiting Clergy Register.

Visiting Clergy Protocols and forms are available on the Archdiocese of Sydney website under ['Information for Visiting Clergy Tab'](#) – bottom right hand corner of website.

We request that all Priests of our Parishes display the Safeguarding notice below in all future parish bulletins.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Sharing Knowledge

“And the people complained in the hearing of the Lord about their misfortunes, and when the Lord heard it, his anger was kindled, and the fire of the Lord burned among them and consumed some outlying parts of the camp. Then the people cried out to Moses, and Moses prayed to the Lord, and the fire died down.” – Numbers 11:1-4



Sharing Knowledge Resource 3.

Recording Safeguarding Concerns and Complaints

The Archdiocese of Sydney encourages the reporting of Safeguarding Concerns and/or Complaints by an individual who reasonably and in good faith suspects unacceptable practice or behaviour by a person associated with the Archdiocese of Sydney through employment, contract or volunteering.

Standard 6 of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and the Child Safe Standards, requires Parishes, Agencies and Chaplaincy Communities to implement and evidence the following:

- Complaints are taken seriously and responded to promptly and thoroughly;
- There are clear procedures that provide step-by-step guidance on what action to take for different types of complaints, including breaches of Codes of Conduct, disclosures, allegations or concerns of abuse of a child, be they historic or current;
- Processes are in place to record all child abuse complaints, incidents, allegations, disclosures, concerns and referrals; Recording includes notes regarding actions taken, including all internal investigations and reports made to statutory authorities or professional bodies; and
- Records to be secure so that confidential information is stored, protected and retained for 50 years; and only delegated personnel is to have access to complaint records.

To assist Parish, Agencies and Chaplaincy Communities comply and evidence Standard 6 the Safeguarding Office has developed a suite of documents to help Clergy, Agency Heads and Workers with Safeguarding Complaints and/or Concerns that come to their attention such as:

Flowchart: Reporting Safeguarding Complaints:

This Flowchart assist Clergy, Agency Heads and Workers in how and where to make report when they suspect that a person has acted in a manner that is inappropriate or unsafe towards a Child.

Form: Reporting Details of Safeguarding Complaint:

This form is to be filled out by Clergy, Agency Head, or any person who suspects a Reportable Crime, Reportable Allegation, conviction considered to be a Reportable Conviction, or otherwise has a Safeguarding Concern.

Flowchart: Managing Safeguarding Complaints:

This flowchart sets out the steps for managing a Safeguarding Complaint after it has been notified to the Safeguarding Office.

The Safeguarding Office urges you not to see complaints or concerns as a negative, in fact complaints and concerns can help to create really important change. The Royal Commission is a great example of how complaints and concerns create change. The Safeguarding Office is always happy to support you with any Safeguarding concerns or complaints that come your way. For more information on the above topics visit the [Safeguarding Website](#).