



SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

The Catholic Archdiocese of Perth

VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1/ March 2023



"Lord Jesus, Hear our voices as we pray for your care and protection. Strengthen and guide us as we strive to make our Catholic communities a safe place for all. Give us the wisdom and courage to listen with open hearts, see with open eyes, and speak out to ensure children and adults are safe, loved, respected, and cared for. We also pray for those who have been harmed. Give them the courage to seek the truth and to heal. May we all strive to understand our collective responsibility to work together to safeguard our Catholic communities. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, Amen "

This Issue :

From the Director

Website - Reporting

National Catholic Safeguarding Standard (NCSS)

Snippet from Working With Children Screening Unit

Webinar - Cyber Safety and Digital Wellness

2023 Child Protection Week - Save the Date

SAAT - Big THANK YOU!

2023 Safeguarding Days of Significance Calendar

Snippets



Happy New Year! I hope I can still say this even though it is March!

As you know I will be in the Director's role this year. I am excited about what lies ahead for us all in the Safeguarding space.

We have hit the ground running again with Safeguarding Inductions. Please continue to encourage ALL CHURCH WORKERS (paid/unpaid) to register to attend a session. Our website is updated constantly with new session dates and times.

Reflecting on how your parish, office, or agency is recording safeguarding compliance is also timely as we roll out safeguarding inductions and the Safeguarding Personal Declaration. A database is helpful to keep track of all workers' (paid/unpaid) and their compliance with:

- WWCC's (where applicable),
- Safeguarding Induction attendance date and
- Safeguarding Personal Declaration.

If you need assistance in setting up a database, please contact our office.

The Safeguarding Guidelines that will replace the Handbook are well underway. They will be sent to the Executive Team of the Archdiocese for approval as we finish producing them. Keep checking the Safeguarding Website for updates as this is where you will see the changes take shape.

Thank you again to everyone in our church community that contributes to safeguarding. We are truly blessed to have passionate and compassionate people that make such a difference.

***"Remember the past with gratitude. Live the present with enthusiasm. Look forward to the future with confidence."* –St. John Paul II**



NEW FEEDBACK AND REPORTING SECTION ON THE WEBSITE

You may notice we have streamlined our **Feedback and Reporting** section of the Safeguarding Website.

You or anyone who needs to report a concern, can now go directly to the website and fill in the **Safeguarding Concern Form**.

We have also designed a section specifically for **Feedback and/or Compliments**. So let us know how we are going and how we can improve. Or you may even want to congratulate us on a job well done!

Check it out! [Safeguarding Office – Protecting Children in the Catholic Church \(perthcatholic.org.au\)](https://perthcatholic.org.au)

REMINDER!

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (Edition 2) published in December 2022 focus on safeguarding practices to protect children AND adults, with a focus on adults at risk.

An **Adult at Risk** means any person aged 18 years and over who is at increased risk of experiencing abuse, such as people:

- who are elderly
- with a disability
- who suffer from mental illness
- who have diminished capacity
- who have cognitive impairment
- who have suffered previous abuse
- who are experiencing transient risks
- who in receiving a ministry or service are subject to a power imbalance
- who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- who are from a culturally and linguistically diverse background
- who are of diverse sexuality
- who have any other impairment or adversity that makes it difficult for them to protect themselves from abuse.



In November 2022 a Geraldton man was convicted of working with children without holding a valid WWC Check.

The offender ignored requests by his employer to renew his Card and continued to carry out child-related work. He was fined \$500 and ordered to pay \$8000 in costs to

the Department of Communities.

This case serves as a timely reminder that it is the responsibility of the individual to renew their Card before it expires.

The Working with Children Screening Unit holds several free workshops and information sessions for organisations and individuals to better understand the Working with Children Check.

Please follow the [Eventbrite page](#) to stay on top of all future events.



WEBINAR FOR PARENTS/CARERS & PROFESSIONALS CYBER SAFETY & DIGITAL WELLNESS



Tuesday 2 May 2023, 7 - 9 PM

The Safeguarding Program Office is collaborating with eSafeKids to offer this **FREE** online event.

Kaylene Kerr is recognised as one of Western Australia's leading service providers of education workshops in Cyber Safety.

To register [CLICK HERE](#) or go to www.safeguarding.perthcatholic.org.au



SAVE THE DATE

2023 Child Protection Week

3 – 9 September

Safeguarding Sunday 10th September

We will be running the Kite Craft activity again this year. So, sharpen your pencils and crayons and let your church community know they will have an opportunity to gather and reflect on the importance of Child Protection and Safeguarding. Oh and fly a kite!

SAAT – Updates and a Big Thank You!

We are pleased to announce that there has been a significant improvement in the number of **Safeguarding Activities Assessment Tool** self-assessment submissions from parishes in 2022.

We wish to acknowledge and recognise the significant achievement of the parishes that have participated in the self-assessment and have put in the effort to complete the assessment – WELL DONE!

The SAAT is continuously improved to facilitate easier use in 2023. It includes clear guidelines and an easier template to help you complete the self-assessment easily and effectively.

Catholic Archdiocese of Perth
Safeguarding Activities Assessment Tool (SAAT)

Entity: Archdiocesan Agency Office Organisation Ministry Parish

Scope: NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS – NCSS (Edition 2) CONFORMANCE

Entity Name: _____ Date: _____

Location 1: _____

Location 2: _____

Location 3: _____

How to complete the SAAT self-assessment

SURNAME	FIRST NAME	TEAM	ROLE
			Director / Manager / Parish Priest
			Safeguarding Officer
			Safeguarding Officer
			Safeguarding Officer

Safeguarding Activities Assessment Tool (SAAT)

TITLE: 2022 SAAT – PARISH SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

SCOPE: NATIONAL CATHOLIC SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS

PURPOSE: SAFEGUARDING – PARISH CONFORMANCE LEVEL

PARISH			
Location	1	Parish	Date
SAFEGUARDING TEAM			
PP		SGO1	SGO2
AP?		water	water

CONFORMANCE LEVEL

Priority 1 2 of 2 criteria are met to Standard. If more refer to Section 4 for information.

Priority 2 2 of 2 criteria are met to Standard. Please refer to section 4 for information.

Priority 3 2 of 2 criteria are met to Standard. Please refer to section 4 for information.

OBSERVATIONS: 2 of 2 criteria are met to Standard.

Note: If the safeguarding program officer (or priest) who submitted the SAAT is not a parish priest, the necessary information provided in section 4, the SAAT is an adult return to close the page. Please contact the Safeguarding Office for assistance.

The Standards Action Plan Report back to parishes upon completion of the SAAT are in progress. If your parish has completed their 2022 SAAT you should have or will be receiving a report back soon.

We welcome any feedback on the process. Our team is also available to provide help and support.

- Thomas Law -



The Safeguarding Program Office would like to continue to raise awareness of significant days and campaigns throughout the year that highlight and acknowledge important child and adult vulnerabilities. These days/weeks provide an opportunity to build better communities and affirm positive action that furthers the common good.

As Pope Francis aptly stated in his Encyclical Letter Fratelli Tutti, **“When the dignity of the human person is respected, and his or her rights recognised and guaranteed, creativity and interdependence thrive...”**

I encourage you all to consider how you might highlight these days at your Parish, Agency, Office or Organisation. We have provided web links to further research these events in preparation for promotion the local level should you choose.

2023 Safeguarding Days of Significance	
Source	https://www.catholic.au/s/article/Calendar
	2023 D&I Day Calendar Diversity Council Australia (dca.org.au)
	https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks
7 February	Safer Internet Day
20 – 26 March	Harmony week - Everyone belongs
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination UNESCO
5 April	International Day of Conscience United Nations
15 – 21 May	National Families Week – An initiative of Families Australia (nfw.org.au)
15 June	World Elder Abuse Awareness Day – Advocate
18 - 24 June	Home - Refugee Week
2 - 9 July	NAIDOC
25 July	World Day for Grandparents and Elderly
12 August	International Youth Day United Nations
27 August	Social Justice Sunday
3 – 9 September	Child Protection Week
10 th September	Safeguarding Sunday
14 September	RU OK Day
24 September	World Day of Refugees and Migrants
1 October	International Day of Older Persons
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty United Nations
16 November	International Day of Tolerance
19 November	White Ribbon Day - say no to violence against women.
19 November	World Day of the Poor
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women United Nations
3 December	International Day of Persons with a Disability
10 December	Human Rights Day
18 December	International Migrants Day

**BE A
CHAMPION**



Does your Archdiocesan Agency, Organisation or Office want to get actively involved with Safeguarding?

We would love to support the implementation of a Safeguarding Officer at your location.
Contact Barbara Blayney—Director Safeguarding Program on PH: 9221 7762 or
email: director.safeguarding@perthcatholic.org.au



Above: The first 2023 Safeguarding Level 2 Refresher training session held for SGO's @ 450 Hay Street Perth



Right: Virginia Tobar - Safeguarding Officer from Cottesloe Parish promoting Safeguarding @ 2023 Cottesloe Ministry Fair

