



Safeguarding News

February 2021

Greetings all,

You will recall that we have been working on a framework of Safeguarding Policy's. We are hoping to have our draft Safeguarding policies and Implementation Plan endorsed by our Child Safeguarding Committee at the first meeting in 2021. Following endorsement by the Child Safeguarding Committee, we hope that these Safeguarding Policies shall then be approved by the Congregational Leadership Team and then circulated and made widely available. There has been a great deal of consultation and collaboration occur in relation to these policies, which I am very thankful for.

We have been working with the Communications Team on the development of the Safeguarding 'pod' within the SOSJ re-designed website. This is an exciting space, and we hope that the visual appeal encourages all who access the website, to continue reading about SOSJ's culture of safeguarding. Our safeguarding policy framework and reporting form shall also be accessible on the SOSJ public website, which shall allow members of the public to become familiar with our safeguarding work and commitment. We would love to hear your feedback on these new developments as they become available.

We received feedback about the visual design of the Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement, and that it was somewhat difficult to read. To assist with this, we have changed the background of the Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement, so that it may be easier to read and more visually appealing. The Congregational Leadership Team have endorsed this change, and we hope that you may see this soon.

The Catholic Church has established a new company to oversee all safeguarding, child protection and professional standards in Australia. This new company has been named Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL), and merges Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL), the Australian Catholic Centre for Professional Standards and the Australian Catholic Ministry Register. The membership of this company includes the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Catholic Religious Australia and the Association of Ministerial PJP's. Catholic entities compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, shall be audited by arrangement with ACSL.

Work has continued to incorporate safeguarding requirements for adults at risk (or vulnerable adults), into the revised National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (Edition Two). ACSL intends to release a summary report and a more detailed implementation plan for the revised standards, this year. 'Safer Internet Day' is being held on February 9, 2021. This is a day to bring awareness of internet safety, particularly for children and young people. You may have a child or young person within your family and/or extended network, whom you could share some internet safety tips with or even start a conversation about online safety. You can click [here](#) to learn more about 'Safer Internet Day'.

Following this, February 13, 2021, is recognised as the 'Apology Anniversary' which precedes 'National Sorry Day' on May 26, 2021. The 'Apology Anniversary' respects the achievement that was the apology to the Stolen Generations of our First Nations people. You can click [here](#) to read some facts, access resources, learn about current projects, and listen to a podcast.

Valentine's Day is more than a day of romance or disappointment for those in (and out of) love! February 14, 2021, or 'V-Day' is also recognised as a day to end violence against women and girls. Events are arranged to raise awareness and generate broader attention to stop violence against women and girls, including rape, domestic violence, incest, and all manner of sexual abuse. You can read more about 'V-Day' [here](#).

Following this, we recognise National Children's Week from 24 October – 1 November 2020, where we celebrate children's rights, talents, and citizenship. Each year the theme of Children's Week highlights a Children's Right from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The theme for 2020 is Article 15, which states 'Children have the right to meet together and join groups and organisations as long as it does not stop other people from enjoying their rights. In exercising their rights, children have the responsibility to respect the rights, freedom, and reputation of others'. You can find more about National Children's Week and events within your area, by clicking [here](#).

As always, I am happy to chat with anyone further in relation to any questions or concerns you have in relation to child safeguarding. I can be contacted via email or telephone as listed below.

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