



Safeguarding News

October 2020

Greetings all,

Welcome again to the Safeguarding News Segment!

We have continued to develop and refine the draft framework of SOSJ Safeguarding Policies, and I am incredibly grateful to the Congregational Leadership Team, for their generous time and collaboration in this process. We hope to commence circulating these policies in the near future.

We are in the process of developing a Safeguarding Implementation Plan, which shall map our way forward as we seek to successfully comply with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. It is our intention to have this plan then endorsed by the Congregational Leadership Team and the Child Safeguarding Committee.

We have been working together with the Communications Team to ensure that both the SPIRIT Staff Intranet and the new re-developed public SOSJ website (to be launched in the near future), shall contain all of our important Safeguarding documents, resources, commitment, policies, news, and other references. We hope that these will be items which are easy to locate and access electronically, and that SOSJ's commitment to child safeguarding and zero tolerance for child abuse, is clear to all. We would love to hear your feedback on these new developments as they become available.

Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL), invited feedback in relation to the second edition of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS). CPSL are in the process of consolidating this feedback and shall release a summary report and the second draft of the NCSS, including the incorporation of standards relating to the protection of Vulnerable Adults (or Adults at Risk), will be released following such.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) produced a resource to provide guidance on mandatory reporting requirements. This guide relates to National Catholic Safeguarding Standards 6.1.1 and 6.5.1 and is available [here](#).

Mandatory reporting laws in Australia have undergone changes to expand those who are covered by mandatory reporting requirements. Most notably this has affected Church personnel and especially those in volunteer roles. It is important that you all are aware and up to date on your mandatory reporting requirements. Mandatory reporting laws aim to identify child abuse and neglect, requiring certain groups of people to report when they suspect child abuse and neglect is occurring to government authorities.

The laws in Australia are not the same across all State and Territory jurisdictions. These differences relate to who has to report, what types of abuse and neglect have to be reported, the 'state of mind' that activates the reporting duty (i.e. having a concern, suspicion or belief on reasonable grounds) and who the report is made to. These differences are described and discussed in the AIFS resource sheet.

In other news, Thursday 22 October 2020 marked the second anniversary of the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison's MP, National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Sexual Abuse. You can

click [here](#) to access information and memorabilia of this important event in our nation's history. You can click [here](#) to access the transcript of the Prime Ministers first anniversary address to the House of Representatives, commemorating this event.

Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) National Day of Sorrow and Promise, was held on Sunday 25 October 2020 with a special liturgy between 5pm-6pm. This National Day of Sorrow and Promise not only acknowledges survivors of abuse within the Catholic Church, but also promises a safer future. You can click [here](#) for more information and to download the liturgy booklet.

Blue Knot Day calls on all Australians to unite in support of Australian adults who have experienced complex trauma and support them on their recovery pathway and inspire hope. Blue Knot day is held on 28 October 2020 and you can learn more about it by clicking [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](#).

October has been a very busy month indeed!

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

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