



## Safeguarding News

August 2021

Greetings all,

Welcome to the Heartbeat Safeguarding Segment! I hope that you are all safe and well. I write this article whilst working from home due to the current COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. I am very thankful for the opportunity to continue working from my home environment, and my thoughts are with those whom this pandemic has impacted far worse than myself.

In June, Sr Monica released a YouTube video launching the framework of safeguarding policies to the Congregation. I encourage you to watch this video message if you have not yet had the opportunity to do so. The video goes for less than nine minutes, and you may choose to watch this individually or with your fellow colleagues.

The framework of safeguarding policies is now available on the SPIRIT Intranet and the Josephite Members only website. Additionally, the Child Safeguarding Policy, Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct and the Child Safeguarding Complaint Handling Policy and Reporting Procedure, are also available on the [SOSJ public website](#). The [National Catholic Safeguarding Standards \(NCSS\)](#) require that these three policies are publicly available for members of the public to access and know what to expect from our entity.

I would encourage you to become aware of the safeguarding policy framework and make yourself familiar with how and where to access these on SPIRIT. I suggest that you commence by taking a look at the Child Safeguarding Policy and the Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct. We shall each need to commit to the Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct by reading, signing, and dating this Code. We shall be looking to provide more information and planning on how this shall occur in the near future.

We are scheduled to review our Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement by the end of this year, and I would welcome your reflections and contributions. Our next scheduled review shall be in 2024, so I encourage you to participate in this review.

When considering our Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement, please consider the ten NCSS, as the Commitment Statement should not only reflect SOSJ's values and ethics, but it should also align with the NCSS. The NCSS are as follows:

NCSS 1: Committed Leadership, governance, and culture;

NCSS 2: Children are safe, informed and participate;

NCSS 3: Partnering with families, carers, and communities;

NCSS 4: Equity is promoted, and diversity is respected;

NCSS 5: Robust Human Resource Management;

NCSS 6: Effective complaints management;

NCSS 7: Ongoing education and training;

NCSS 8: Safe physical and online environments;

NCSS 9: Continuous Improvement;

NCSS 10: Policies and procedures support child safety.

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (previously Catholic Professional Standards Ltd), provides some suggested inclusions to a Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement, such as:

- Children should be valued, their rights upheld, and their safety prioritised;
- A zero-tolerance approach to child abuse should be stated;
- Explain how the entity is committed to child safeguarding;
- Raises awareness about obligations to safeguard children;
- Welcomes feedback.

I look forward to hearing from you with any suggested amendments, inclusions, or comments, in relation to our Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement.



The National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN) was co-founded in 1987, when the issues of child abuse and neglect were taboo topics. NAPCAN's purpose is to bring an awareness of child abuse and neglect and create safer communities for children. NAPCAN facilitates National Child Protection Week each year as a means to create awareness and prevention of harm towards children. National Child Protection Week shall be celebrated from 5th – 11th September, with this year's theme being:

***'Every child, in every community, needs a fair go.'***

This is a fabulous message and inspires us to all take some responsibility in working towards making this theme a reality for children.

For those of you who are not experiencing lockdown restrictions, you may consider a few ways in which you may acknowledge and celebrate National Child Protection Week sometime between 5th – 11th September. Here are a few suggestions we all may explore during National Child Protection Week:

- Download a poster or tip sheet from the NAPCAN website by clicking [here](#)
- Arrange a local 'Child Protection Week' morning tea.
- Watch the webinar of the 2020 official launch for Child Protection Week, by clicking in on this link: <https://youtu.be/VErTKsUPiWw> (note, there are approximately 17 seconds before the first speaker commences).
- Take a look at a number of research papers / reports on the NAPCAN website by clicking [here](#)
- Check out a few tips on how you could play your part by clicking [here](#) on NAPCAN's website

I wish you well in however you recognise and celebrate this special week.

As always, I invite you to contact me via phone, email, or in person should you have any safeguarding questions or matters you would like to discuss.

I hope that you are all able to remain well and protected from this virus.

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