



## Safeguarding News February 2022

Greetings all,

Welcome to the *HeartBeat* Safeguarding Segment! I hope that you have all enjoyed a restful Christmas holiday season and are feeling re-energised for the beginning of a new year.

Once again, I write this article whilst working from home due to the COVID-19 Omicron outbreak. I expect that by now, either you have experienced the virus yourself, have a family member who has, or know of someone who has been diagnosed with this strain of the virus. These are certainly challenging times in which we live!

You will recall that we are in the process of reviewing our Safeguarding Commitment Statement. I thank everyone who sent through their reflections and contributions to the Commitment Statement. We are intending to expand our Commitment Statement, so that we commit to the safeguarding not only of children, but of all people. We hope our revised statement reflects our intention to honour the rights, dignity, and respect of all people. It would be wonderful for the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart, to be identified and recognised as a safe entity for all, thus honouring the legacy of all Sisters.

The proposed revised Commitment Statement has been tabled on the agenda of the next Safeguarding Committee meeting. It is hoped that the Safeguarding Committee will endorse the revised Commitment Statement, which shall then be sent to the Congregational Leadership Team for approval. Once approved, the new Commitment Statement shall be circulated and publicly available.

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.

Finally, I leave you with a photo of the beautiful coastal walk within Bouddi National Park, which I did over the Christmas break. May we all find places to be refreshed and renewed.



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