

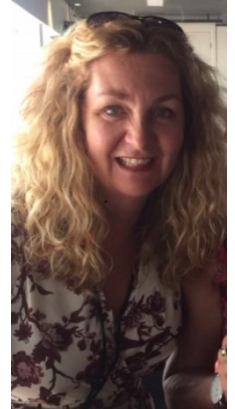


Safeguarding News April 2022

Greetings all,

Welcome to the *HeartBeat* Safeguarding Segment! I hope that you have all enjoyed a blessed Easter and ANZAC Day.

Many of you will have viewed the video we created, exploring SOSJ's Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct. For those of you who perhaps may have missed this, you can now access this video (titled 'SOSJ Child Safeguarding Training Video') which has been uploaded to the SPIRIT Intranet, within the 'Resources' section of the Safeguarding pod.



Queensland Volunteer Training

This week, I worked with a group of committed SOSJ volunteers in QLD, who are dedicated to ensuring they do all that is necessary within the safeguarding framework. It was a great privilege to meet these exceptional volunteers and I was inspired by the generosity of their time, and dedication. Together, we worked through the new Salt Safeguarding Essentials online training program. Salt Safeguarding Essentials is the new online training program which all new Workplace Participants shall be required to complete in the future. If you had not completed the previous online Safeguarding Essentials training, you will be required to complete this new program. It is important to be aware of how safeguarding training may impact each of us individually, and if this training raises any questions or concerns for you, I would encourage you to contact me and I shall endeavour to link you with appropriate supports.

Child Compliance Checks


Child Compliance Checks (often commonly referred to as a 'Working with Children Check' or 'Blue Card'), are not nationally recognised between the states and territories within Australia. I would like to remind those of us who are required to hold a Child Compliance Check, that as per the SOSJ Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct, it is our individual responsibility to ensure that our Child Compliance Check remains valid and is renewed prior to the expiry date. In most states and territories, we can seek the renewal of our Child Compliance Check some months prior to the date of expiry.

NSW Child Safe Scheme

The NSW Child Safe Scheme commenced on 1 February 2022. Organisations must now demonstrate how they are implementing the Child Safe Standards, which were a key recommendation from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This requires strong leadership and sustained, collective effort and action. I encourage you to read about what we need to do to keep children safe. The Guide to the Child Safe Standards is a good place to start, and you can click [here](#) to access the guide.

Victorian Child Safe Standards

Similarly, Victoria has developed new Child Safe Standards which become effective on 1 July 2022. These eleven (11) Child Safe Standards, build on the 2016 previous seven (7) Child Safe Standards. These new Child Safe Standards outline the actions organisations must take to keep children and young people safe and were developed to provide more clarity for organisations and are more consistent with Standards in other states and territories within Australia. I encourage you to read about the new Victorian Child Safe Standards by clicking [here](#).



The good news is that both the new NSW Child Safe Standards, and the Victorian Child Safe Standards, are aligned with the National Child Safe Principles and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards.

Finally

I would love your thoughts about how we may improve our practice and culture to keep children and vulnerable adults safe.

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.

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(Usual workdays Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday)