



Safeguarding News

August 2022

Greetings all,

Welcome to the Heartbeat Safeguarding Segment!

Mary MacKillop Precinct Volunteer Training

In May, I travelled to South Australia for the purpose of providing training to the incredible volunteers who offer up their invaluable time and service at Mary MacKillop Precinct in Keningston. After what amounted to a full day of travel, I reached the Bethany Centre and was warmly welcomed by the volunteers who had patiently waited for my arrival. We conducted two well attended training sessions in relation to the SOSJ Child Safeguarding Policy and Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct. The volunteers acknowledged and committed to their role within the Congregation's Safeguarding framework. It was an absolute privilege to meet such a dedicated and committed group of volunteers. My sincere thanks to all the Sisters and staff at Keningston, for making me feel so welcome during my time with them.



Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

In 2014, the Holy Father created the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, as an instrument for change in how the Church works to prevent the sexual abuse of minors and vulnerable adults. Pope Francis has called on the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors to produce an annual report on what the Church is doing all around the world to prevent the abuse of minors and vulnerable adults. The foundation of safety needs to be established in the Gospel and in the fundamental principles within the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. If you are not familiar with the internationally agreed UN Conventions of the Rights of the Child, I encourage you take a look at these by clicking [here](#). You will also find the UN Conventions of the Rights of the Child on SOSJ's public website, under the Resources sub-section within the Safeguarding and Professional Standards tab.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

Elder abuse is any act which causes harm to an older person and is carried out by someone they know and trust. The abuse may be physical, social, financial, psychological, or sexual, and may include mistreatment and/or neglect. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is recognised each year on 15 June and seeks to raise awareness of elder abuse within societies. I wonder if there is someone you know who may be a victim of elder abuse and if you are aware of how you may assist? Let us celebrate and give thanks for the positive contributions of older people within our communities. The Australian Human Rights Commission has some fabulous resources on their website, and you can click [here](#) to learn more.

If you have concerns that someone you know may be experiencing elder abuse, the National Elder Abuse phone line is: 1800ELDERHelp or 1800 353 374.

National Child Protection Week

National Child Protection Week is celebrated annually in Australia and is facilitated by NAPCAN. National Child Protection Week is held from 4 – 10 September 2022, and the theme this year, is a continuation of 'Every child, in every community deserves a fair go'.

The NAPCAN website sites that:

Children and young people thrive when they grow up safe, connected and supported in their family, community, and culture. They have the right to grow up in environments that support them according to their needs, now and into the future.'

Each year, SOSJ pledges our support on NAPCAN's website, and you can also register to attend a number of interesting online webinars during National Child Protection Week. To register for these websites, or learn more, you can visit NAPCAN's website or click [here](#).

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)