



Safeguarding News November 2022

Greetings all,

Welcome to the Heartbeat Safeguarding Segment!

National Apology

The fourth anniversary of the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse in Institutional Settings took place on 22 October 2022. This apology was first made in 2018, by the then Australian Prime Minister of Australia, The Hon Scott Morrison MP. This was a significant moment in the history of Australia. You can read the printed text version of this apology by clicking [here](#). May we keep at the forefront of our path to reconciliation, those who have been hurt and whose trust has been broken.

Children's Week

Children's Week is a national celebration of children and young people and focuses the communities attention on children, their rights, and talents, and acknowledging the right of children to enjoy childhood.



Australia recognises and celebrates Children's Week on the fourth Wednesday of October, which coincides with Universal Children's Day. Each year the theme of Children's Week highlights a particular Children's Right (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child).

The Theme for 2022 was based on Article 27 – "All children have the right to a standard of living that supports their wellbeing and healthy development".

Safeguarding Commitment Statement

The Sisters of Saint Joseph Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement was recently reviewed and now contains the inclusion of the Congregation's commitment to the safeguarding of all people. The SOSJ Adult and Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement has been circulated to the Regions and is now on display within SOSJ centres, museums, and buildings. It has also been uploaded to the SPIRIT intranet and SOSJ's public website, under the Safeguarding and Professional Standards section. May I encourage you to view the Adult and Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement by clicking [here](#).

Vic-Tas Presentations

I travelled to Victoria in October and delivered a presentation to many of the staff and volunteers from the Regional Centre, Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre (MMHC), St Joseph's by the Sea, and Yarraville. The presentation was very ambitious, covering a range of topics such as the SOSJ Safeguarding Framework, including a focused exploration of the Child Safeguarding Policy and the Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct, a review of the Safeguarding pod within the SOSJ public website, and the Working with Children Check requirements within Victoria. We also briefly explored the 11 new Child Safe Standards which came into effect in Victoria on 1 July 2022, and the Victorian Reportable Conduct Scheme, with which religious organisations are required to be compliant.


I would like to especially acknowledge the many volunteers who regularly offer up their invaluable time and service for the Congregation in Victoria, and who attended this presentation.

Sr Mary Quinlan and I also had the privilege of meeting the Sisters within the Vic-Tas Region and sharing safeguarding and professional standards reflections.

My sincere gratitude to all the Sisters, staff, and volunteers within the Vic-Tas Region for their generous welcome and attention at these presentations.

Victorian Child Safe Standards

The Victorian Commission for Children and Young People introduced the new Child Safe Standards on 1 July 2022. These Standards are not unlike the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and place a stronger emphasis on the inclusion of children and young people in decision making, and also drawing purposeful consideration of our



First Nations peoples. You can click [here](#) to learn more about the new Victorian Child Safe Standards.

Finally

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.

Jane Lace

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

PH: +61 2 8912 2760

Jane.lace@sosj.org.au

9 Mount Street, North Sydney

(Usual workdays Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday)