



Safeguarding News January 2023

Greetings all,

Welcome to your Safeguarding HeartBeat Newsletter.

I hope you all enjoyed a restful and refreshing holiday season. We have spent much of our time during this first month of the new year uploading documentation to the electronic portal for the future audit by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL).

It is quite encouraging to see just how many pieces of evidence we have to support our compliance efforts. Needless to say, there has been a fair amount of chocolate consumed during this process! As with any audit, we expect there shall be much learning to come from the audit results.



ACSL recently released a number of resources, and one such resource speaks to how the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) aligns with the National Strategy to prevent and respond to child sexual abuse. You can click [here](#) to read this brief resource. The key message is that 'we all have a role to play'.

As we commence 2023, SOSJ's safeguarding approach is extending to adults at risk (or 'vulnerable adults' may be the term you are more familiar with), in addition to children. This aligns with the NCSS Edition Two, which was released at the end of last year. ACSL defines '*adults at risk*' as... "any person aged 18 years and over, who is at increased risk of experiencing abuse, such as people:

- Who are elderly;
- With a disability;
- Who suffer from mental illness;
- Who have diminished capacity;
- Who have cognitive impairment;
- Who have suffered previous abuse;
- Who are experiencing transient risks;
- Who in receiving a ministry or service are subject to a power imbalance;
- Who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander;
- Who are from a culturally and linguistically diverse background;
- Who are of diverse sexuality;
- Who have any other impairment or adversity that makes it difficult for them to protect themselves from abuse."

Being an 'adult at risk' may be a permanent or temporary state. I wonder how many of us ourselves may relate to this at various times in our life?



Late last year, Sr Monica extended an invitation to the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG) to join our Congregational Safeguarding Committee. We are thrilled to welcome Mr Sean Kendall, OCG Child Safe Officer for Faith Institutions, as a member of our Congregational Safeguarding Committee. It is a privilege to have Mr Kendall join as a committee member and share his expertise in relation to Child Safe Standards and have a voice in our safeguarding directions. I consider it a blessing to work for a Congregation which is so committed to safeguarding practices and has a recognisable application of transparency.

I write this newsletter on my last day of work prior to commencing my holiday leave. I invite you to contact me via email should you have any safeguarding questions or matters you would like to discuss, and I look forward to responding to such upon my return to work at the beginning of March.

Blessings,

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)