

Safeguarding News

February 2025

Greetings all,

Welcome to your Safeguarding Heartbeat segment.

Safeguarding Review Updates

I commence this newsletter with another note expressing my sincere appreciation for your recent review of the SOSJ Safeguarding Code of Conduct, and the contributions I received. I am so thankful for your active investment in what may feel like 'policy' work. Your reflective participation takes these documents from being 'policies' to being documents which reflect the culture and charism of the Congregation.

I am thrilled to share with you, that the Congregational Safeguarding Committee reviewed and endorsed the new Adult and Child Safeguarding Policy and Adult and Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct. Continuing the good news, the Congregational Leadership Team have approved these documents. I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Congregational Safeguarding Committee and the Congregational Leadership Team, for their involvement and support.

These new documents now include the safeguarding considerations of 'Adults at Risk'. You may wish to reflect on how this consideration of 'Adults at Risk' may impact you and/or your work.

The new 'Adult and Child Safeguarding Policy' and the new 'Adult and Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct' have been uploaded to both the [SOSJ public website](#) and the Intranet access.

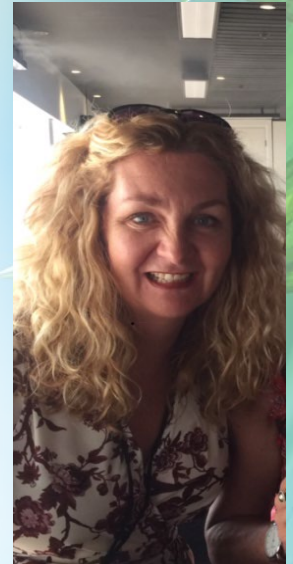
Safer Internet Day

'Safer Internet Day' is globally recognised on Tuesday 11 February 2025 with the theme of *Together for a better internet*. The eSafety Commissioner aims to raise awareness of online safety issues and encourages all Australians to help make the internet a safer, and more positive place. Unfortunately, 70% of Australian adults have had a least one negative experience online. You can learn more about internet safety by visiting the eSafety website www.esafety.gov.au

National Apology to Solen Generations

Thursday 13 February marks the 17th anniversary of the (then) Prime Minister Mr Kevin Rudd, offering a formal apology to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, particularly to the Stolen Generations whose lives had been blighted by past government policies of forced child removal and assimilation. I can clearly remember watching this apology on the television with my family, and explaining to my (then) nine-, eight- and six-year-old children the importance and significance of this apology. You can read more about this apology by clicking [here](#).

I invite you to contact me should you have any safeguarding questions or matters you would like to discuss. I can be contacted by phone, email, or the old-fashioned way – in person!



Take care,

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