

## Safeguarding News

### May 2025

Greetings all,

Welcome to your Safeguarding HeartBeat segment.

### National Families Week: 12-18 May 2025

National Families Week is an initiative of Families Australia and is supported by the Australian Government Department of Social Services. The theme in 2025 is:



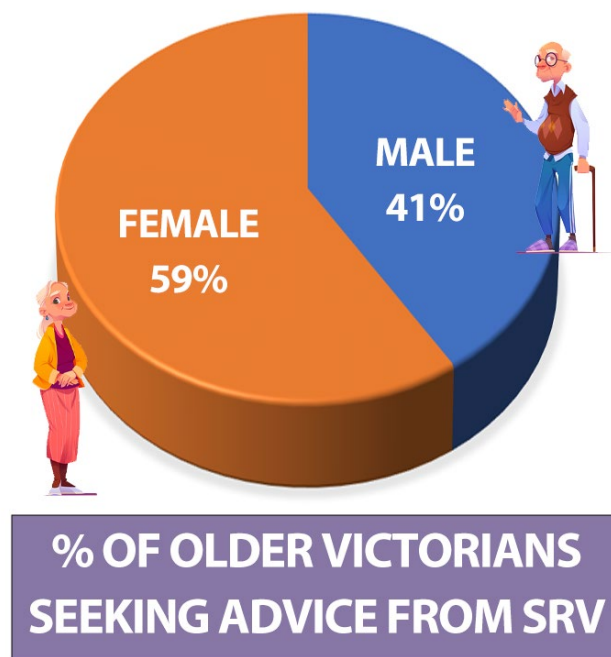
This year's theme highlights the importance of connection, care, and resilience within families. It's an opportunity to reflect on the strength of family bonds, reconnect with loved ones, and embrace activities that bring us together. No matter what family looks like for you, let's celebrate the power of support and the difference we can make for each other.

Families Australia are hosting a series of webinars during the week, which will share insights and practical tips on how we can support one another to thrive in both personal and professional life. You can click [here](https://nfw.org.au) to view the speaker series during the week and register for a webinar.

## Elder Abuse Awareness Day: 15 June 2025

The United Nations General Assembly designed 15 June as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This is a day celebrated each year, giving an opportunity for communities to stand together against the abuse, mistreatment and neglect of older people.

Elder abuse comes in many forms. It can be financial, emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, or social. Elder abuse can occur once, or many times and can vary in severity from subtle through to extreme. It can include one or a combination of the different types of abuse.



\*IN FINANCIAL YEAR 22/23

Most often, elder abuse is carried out by someone known to the older person, with two thirds of abusers being an adult child. Abusers can also be other family members, relatives, or friends.

**1800 ELDERHelp**  
(1800 353 374)

I am **treated** with **respect** by family and friends

I **know** how my **money** is being spent

I **choose** what happens in my **home**

**Decisions** about my life are in my **best interest**

My will reflects **my own wishes**

I **know** where my **medication** is

If you answered **'no'** to any of these statements, you may wish to **talk to someone you can trust.**

If you experience, witness, or suspect elder abuse, call the **free and confidential** National Elder Abuse phone line for information, support and referrals. In an emergency, contact **000.**

**ELDER ABUSE**  
EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

Australian Human Rights Commission

A collaboration between the Australian, state and territory governments.

## Research

The Australian Catholic University's Institute of Child Protection Studies regularly conducts research studies related to child protection and safeguarding. In a media release related to a study titled 'The safeguarding capability of adults in Catholic Church ministries: A global perspective' (July 2024), the study determined that:

*"Lay members of the Church have scored lowest on a range of child safeguarding measures compared to those holding other roles."*

The study had asked 184 participants from ministries in Australia, the UK, the Philippines, Ghana, India, Poland and Italy, to rate their beliefs about their organisational culture of safeguarding and awareness of policies and procedures, their confidence to act, their attitude to prevention and the agency of children/young people, and their situational prevention knowledge and education. I would suggest that should such a study be conducted within the Congregation, a PERFECT record would be reached, rather than a low score! The Josephite commitment and charism to serve and protect those who are vulnerable, certainly creates a safe culture and environment for all to enjoy.

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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