



Safeguarding News

May 2026

Greetings,

Welcome to your Safeguarding segment. I'm feeling surprised that we are already in May... where did the beginning of the year go?

SOSJ Safeguarding Commitment Statement Review

I am thankful to the Congregational Leadership Team for the approval of the Congregational Safeguarding Commitment Statement. You will find the new Child and Adult Safeguarding Commitment Statement on printed display within the foyer of the Regional Administration Centres and the Congregational Administration Centre as well as other places. The Statement is also uploaded to the SOSJ public website and the SPIRIT Intranet.

Pope Leo XIV's Safeguarding Message

Earlier this year, the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors facilitated a three-day workshop in Rome titled 'Building Communities that Safeguard Dignity'. Representatives of religious orders attended and Pope Leo XIV prayed that the Church's religious communities would *"increasingly become examples of trust and dialogue, where every person is respected, listened to and valued."* Pope Leo XIV continued with these words of encouragement *"Religious orders of men and women must continue perfecting their efforts to ensure the safety and integrity of every child, every person they meet and every member of their order. Where justice is lived with mercy, wounds are transformed into openings for grace."*

Ageism Awareness Resources

The Australian Human Rights Commission website states *'Ageism is a real and often overlooked barrier to positive ageing.'* The Commission has produced a number of valuable resources to raise awareness of ageism and support positive change in age-related attitudes and behaviours. I encourage you to check out the resources via the Australian Human Rights Commission website or clicking [here](#).

Changes in Victoria

The responsibilities to support the safety of children and users of social services has been transferred from the Commission for Children and Young People to the Social Services Regulator (SSR). This means that the following schemes are overseen by a single independent regulator with increased powers to detect, exclude and prevent people who present a risk from working with children: Working with Children Check, NDIS Worker Screening Check, Reportable Conduct Scheme, and the Child Safe Standards. The SSR is an independent statutory authority and has regulatory powers to promote compliance among organisations.



Sisters of Saint Joseph
of the Sacred Heart

Safe & Together

The NSW Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG), has partnered with the CHRISTIE project (led by Domestic Violence NSW and the University of Melbourne). This new project will employ a child centred practice model, known as 'Safe & Together' which originated in the United States and has become internationally respected for working with families impacted by domestic violence. The OCG aims to support and collaborate with other government agencies and the non-government sector, to support better integration of domestic and family violence issues across the service systems.

You are always welcome to contact me with a question, concern or just to have a chat!

Kind regards,

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