



# SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

Catholic Archdiocese of Perth  
VOLUME 8 ISSUE 4/ December 2024



“ Lord Jesus, Hear our voices as we pray for your care and protection. Strengthen and guide us as we strive to make our Catholic communities a safe place for all. Give us the wisdom and courage to listen with open hearts, see with open eyes, and speak out to ensure children and adults are safe, loved, respected, and cared for. We also pray for those who have been harmed. Give them the courage to seek the truth and to heal. Amen “

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Welcome to the final newsletter of 2024!

As the year comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on all we have achieved in 2024.

This year has been one of incredible growth and learning. The National

Safeguarding Audit is in its final stages and the immense support and work demonstrated by so many Clergy, Church Leaders, staff and volunteers has been extremely humbling.

Through your selfless efforts we have been able to serve with compassion and commitment so the safety and wellbeing of children and adults in the church community can flourish.

Efforts to upskill and raise awareness of Safeguarding through the Level 1 Safeguarding Induction has seen over 2000 people complete this training since the launch of the self-paced online training in June 2024—amazing!

As we farewelled Ingka—Safeguarding Admin Officer late this year, I am excited to announce that Anthony Coyte will be a permanent fixture in our team working three days a week as the Safeguarding Projects Officer, and Thomas Law will continue in the role as Safeguarding Coordinator.

As we look ahead to the new year, there will be exciting opportunities for targeted safeguarding workshops in 2025 and the Archdiocese will be working hard to implement the recommendations from the Safeguarding Audit.

On behalf of the Safeguarding Program and WA Professional Standards Office, we wish you all a blessed and safe Christmas. God Bless.

*The miracle of Christmas isn't just that Christ came to earth, it's that he came with an invitation.*

Barb Blayney

***“love one another as I have loved you” John 13:34***



### **Christmas Shut Down Period**

The Safeguarding Program Office will close midday Tuesday 24 December 2024 and reopen Tuesday 2 January 2025.

Safeguarding Emergency please call 0428 635 745.



## **NCSS Audit Update December 2024**

In August and September this year, 42 parishes, agencies and ministries of the Archdiocese participated in the inaugural National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) audit for the Archdiocese of Perth.

We are sincerely grateful for the time, energy and commitment displayed by the participating sites.

The audit report is still being finalised and we anticipate that it will be published in February 2025.

As soon as we do have a publication date in the new year, we will send an invitation to an online forum at which the auditors will present the findings to all interested clergy, employees and volunteers of the Archdiocese.

Please note that the report will not refer to any site individually. It will refer only to categories of sites, e.g. parishes or agencies, and to the Archdiocese as a whole.

If you have any queries or would like any further information about the audit at this time, please feel free to contact the Safeguarding Program Office.

Thank you for all your efforts in support of the audit and your ongoing work to promote safeguarding in your ministry.

~ Anthony Coyte ~



## **SAFEGUARDING LEVEL 1 INDUCTION ONLINE SELF-PACED learning Module!**

The **SAFEGUARDING LEVEL 1 INDUCTION** is now a **SELF-PACED ONLINE LEARNING MODULE** that can be completed at any time.

All employees, volunteers, church workers (paid and unpaid) are required to complete the Level 1 Safeguarding Training every three years.

We encourage you to advertise the New Self-Paced Safeguarding Level 1 Induction withing your Parishes and Agencies.

It takes approximately 45 minutes to complete. And all you need to do is go to our **[Training Page](#)**.

We also encourage you to have a computer at your parish/office available for those who do not have access to IT and wish to complete the session locally. It will take

We will continue to offer the In-Person sessions when requested – Please book via the **[Training Request Booking Form](#)**.

Respective Parishes, Agencies and Offices will continue to receive notification from the Safeguarding Program Office of those who have completed training.

**\*\*\*\* [CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE SAFEGUARDING INFO](#) \*\*\*\***

## SAAT 2024—SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

As part of our commitment to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS), the SAAT 2024 was released on the 8th October for completion by November.

At the moment, 53 Parish, 10 Agencies/Offices & 3 Catholic Communities have submitted their SAATs. As always, a **BIG THANK YOU**.

As you may well know, the Self- Assessment will help you continuously improve in your safeguarding best practices and conformance to standards.

We strongly encourage you to complete your SAAT soon and if you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

~ Thomas Law, Safeguarding Coordinator ~

**ORDER**  
**YOUR**  
**FREE KIT**  
**NOW!**

Free to all  
Archdiocese of Perth  
Parishes.



Email: [safeguarding@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@perthcatholic.org.au)

## FREE Learning Opportunities with ACSL

Email: [safeguarding@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@perthcatholic.org.au) to register your interest

### Introduction to Safeguarding Program

Designed for anyone new to safeguarding within a Church context, this program is a series of short flexible online modules.

The six modules contained within this program take between 15 and 25 minutes each to complete. They provide learners with a better understanding of safeguarding in the Catholic Church and tools to help identify child abuse and adults at risk, including guidance for responding to disclosures.

### Introduction to Safeguarding Risk Management

This module provides learners with the knowledge and skills to support safeguarding risk management and mitigation. Participants will be able to:

- identify the importance of risk management as a component of safeguarding
- identify and describe common safeguarding risks within religious organisations
- create a risk management assessment, including identifying risks and the possible consequences and likelihood of each risk
- understand how to prepare safeguarding risk mitigation strategies relevant to their religious organisation.

This module should take 30 minutes to complete.

# IMPORTANT DATES



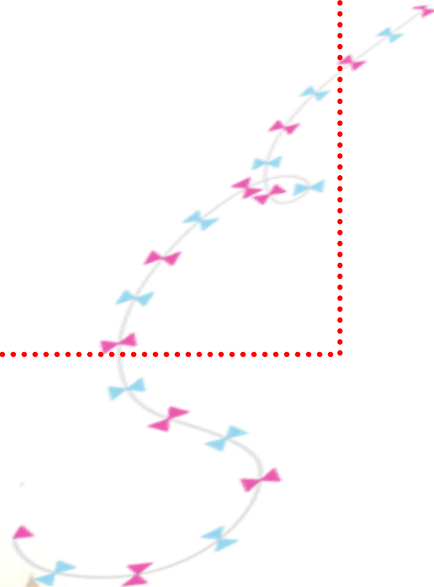
The Safeguarding Program Office would like to continue to raise awareness of significant days and campaigns throughout the year that highlight and acknowledge important child and adult vulnerabilities.

These days/weeks provide an opportunity to build better communities and affirm positive action that furthers the common good.

We have provided web links to further research these events in preparation you can promote at the local level.

*“When the dignity of the human person is respected, and his or her rights recognised and guaranteed, creativity and interdependence thrive” ~ Pope Francis*

11 February 2025	<a href="#"><u>Safer Internet Day</u></a>
18-24 March 2025	<a href="#"><u>Harmony Week</u></a>
13-19 May 2025	<a href="#"><u>Australian National Family Week</u></a>
15 June 2025	<a href="#"><u>Elder Abuse Awareness Day</u></a>
15-21 June 2025	<a href="#"><u>Refugee Week</u></a>
7-24 July 2025	<a href="#"><u>NAIDOC Week</u></a>
27 July 2025	<a href="#"><u>World Day for Grandparents and Elderly</u></a>
12 August 2025	<a href="#"><u>International Youth Day</u></a>
31 August 2025	<a href="#"><u>Social Justice Sunday</u></a>
TBC	Child Protection Week
TBC	Safeguarding Sunday
11 September 2025	<a href="#"><u>R U OK Day</u></a>
3 December 2025	<a href="#"><u>International Day of Persons With Disabilities</u></a>



## COMING SOON IN 2025!

### SAFEGUARDING ROUND TABLE

We look forward to launching the Safeguarding Program Quarterly Round Table Forums.

An OPEN INVITATION to all to come together to exchange ideas, reflect on safeguarding implementation, examine practices and share your safeguarding journey.

**We hope you can join us!**



# New Safeguarding Officers



Left:  
Personal Advocacy and CYM SGO Rachel BOON with Barb Blayney (SG Director) and Adam Phillips (CYM Director)



Below:  
Michelle LOWTH (Bateman), Jer Sie PUI (East Vic Park), Melody MILES (Vic Park), Cynthea SOERYO (Indonesian Catholic Community), Jennifer HUTTON (Claremont), Sona LA MACCHIA (Fremantle) with Sr Beni and Sr Greycy (Servite Order).



Bronia KARNIEWICZ  
(Centre for Life,  
Marriage and Family)



Sal STILLONE  
(City Beach)



Andrea CREADO  
(Mirrabooka)

## Understanding Elder Abuse

The Australian Catholic Safeguarding Standards define Elder Abuse as “a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person. “

Elder abuse affects many older Western Australians, and may involve social, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse.

Elder abuse support services can be found [HERE](#) or contact Advocare Helpline on PH: 1300 724 679.

# Did you Know?

The Safeguarding Program Office now has the Commitment Statement Poster in Chinese and Vietnamese. If you would like a copy to display in you Parish, Agency or Office please email: [safeguarding@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@perthcatholic.org.au)



Fr Kim Nguyen (Chaplain Vietnamese Catholic community with Thomas Law—Safeguarding Coordinator)

## CHRIST THE KING YOUTH FESTIVAL

The Safeguarding Program Office was able to provide a wonderful level of support to the **Catholic Youth Ministry—Christ the King Youth Festival** held in November. Thank YOU to the Safeguarding Officers who were able to assist. The event was a huge success and it is fantastic to see so many young people come together to grow in faith.

Thank you to Josephine Cabagyo, Steph Lu, Cheryl Harris, Agnes De Rozario, Mary Elizabeth Anthony, Liz Jacobs, Mariza D'Souza, Teresa Stuart, Long Ta, Rhea and Tony Summers.



Photos courtesy of SGO Teresa Stuart