

Farewell to Rosemary Teed, Safeguarding Officer - Western Region

The PSU would like to say a fond farewell to Rosemary Teed, Safeguarding Officer - Western Region. Rosemary leaves the Archdiocese after a year to pursue a leadership position working with children, young people and families experiencing complex issues, including mental health. Rosemary has been instrumental in supporting parishes to successfully implement the Safeguarding Framework.

Her ability to form connections and strong relationships, as well as her great sense of humour will be missed by all who work with her. We wish Rosemary all the very best in her new position.

Au Revoir!



Safeguarding in Focus

Safeguarding documents translated into 11 languages

The PSU is very excited to announce the launch of the Safeguarding Documents translated into 11 languages. Across the Archdiocese of Melbourne, our parishes strive to create a culture of inclusion, whereby all persons including those from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities can participate in the spiritual and pastoral life of the parish.

Providing CALD communities with safeguarding information in community languages acts as a protective factor and simultaneously promotes the participation of CALD communities in safeguarding efforts within parishes. You can access these resources [here](#).

They are now available in Arabic, Burmese, Croatian, Simplified Chinese (Mandarin), Traditional Chinese (Cantonese), Italian, Malayalam (Syro- Malabar Indian), Polish, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese:

1. Criminal History Check
2. Safeguarding Responsibilities V1.1
3. Code of Conduct Declaration
4. Code of Conduct
5. Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy
6. Working With Children Check

We caught up with Deacon George Piech Meat, Chaplain to the South Sudanese Catholic Community as well as Fr Joseph Truong Xuan Nguyen OFMConv at St Joseph's Parish in Springvale and Dingley, to hear from them, the value these documents will have to their communities. Click [here](#) to view article.

Commission for Children and Young People Audit Update

As you are all aware, the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP or the Commission) has indicated that an audit of parishes within the Archdiocese will occur in relation to the implementation of the Victorian Child Safe Standards.

Due to the COVID-19 lockdowns impacting the State, the schedule for this audit process has been delayed. The PSU has not yet been informed by the CCYP of any further update about the audit schedule. We will be sure to update you as soon as possible, when we receive further information. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue to work with your regional Safeguarding Officer to progress the work in your parish.

New Victorian Child Safe Standards – Effective from 1 July 2022

- The Victorian Government has announced that [new Victorian Child Safe Standards \(CSS\)](#) will commence on 1 July 2022, giving organisations that work with children time to plan, prepare and comply.
- Eleven new CSS will replace Victoria's current seven standards and principles. These new Victorian CSS support greater national consistency, reflecting the [National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#).
- Some of the key changes include specific requirements:
 - to involve families and communities in organisations' efforts to keep children and young people safe
 - for a greater focus on safety for Aboriginal children and young people
- Parishes and entities within the Archdiocese are well placed to meet any modified requirements. This is because the CAM Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework developed by the PSU in 2018 incorporates the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (10 Standards) as well as the Victorian Child Safe Standards (7 Standards) and the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (10 Standards). Hence, the adjustments required to meet the new set of Victorian CSS will be minimal.

[continue>>](#)



- The [Commission for Children and Young People \(CCYP\)](#) has provided initial guidance to assist organisations in understanding the following new Standards:

- [New Child Safe Standards Information Sheet](#)
- [What's new? New Child Safe Standards Overview](#)
- [What's changing? Compare current and new Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Frequently asked questions](#)

The PSU would like to assure parishes that the work you have done to-date is valid and required. It is not redundant. It will need to be built on. We encourage parishes to keep recording their compliance with the Parish Child Safety Self-Assessment Tool. This enables parishes to self-assess and prepare for potential auditing by the CCYP.

The upcoming CCYP audit will not include the new Victorian Child Safe Standards as they are only in effect from 1 July 2022. The PSU will provide further information and guidance over the coming months to support parishes and other entities to move to the new Victorian Child Safe Standards.

Additional Information

- In 2019, the Victorian Government conducted a [review of Victoria's CSS](#) to consider any adjustments needed to better align with the Royal Commission's recommended national child safe standards.
- The Victorian Government's [final review report](#), indicates strong stakeholder support for moving towards nationally harmonised child safe standards.

Working With Children Checks

Recently, the PSU has received a few queries regarding the Working With Children Check (WWCC) requirements. According to Archdiocese's Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy, all **clergy, employees and volunteers must have a current WWCC**. All clergy, employees and volunteers over the age of 18 (with the exception of short-term or one-off volunteers) are required to maintain a current WWCC throughout their involvement in parishes, agencies and entities.

As we know, Clergy, employees and volunteers in parish roles represent the Archdiocese and hold a position of trust in our communities. The very nature of a volunteer's role within a parish is fluid, and we often see people rotating through different roles. This could easily result in a situation where an unsuitable adult is placed into a volunteering role with direct contact with children without the requisite check. This would place children at risk and the parish at risk of serious penalties for non-compliance with the WWCC legislation.

The blanket approach of the Archdiocese to WWCC's, ensures that irrespective of whether a volunteer's role involves direct, indirect or no contact with children and young people, all of our people have the necessary checks in place. It also serves to ensure that we all stand united in creating safe environments for children and young people, and demonstrates our commitment to safeguarding.

Helpful Hints

The Department of Justice and Community Safety has an available WWCC Status Checker. This document allows you to check and record the status of multiple cards or applications, which can be incorporated into any existing Excel spreadsheet you may have. Simply download the Excel file [here](#).

“

The status checker is easy to use and very efficient. I added it to the spreadsheet we had and with the simple press of a button their status was revealed. I will implement its use on a monthly basis to make sure everyone on file is up to date.

LYNDA RAWLINS FROM THE BAYSIDE CATHOLIC MISSION

Contact/Enquiries

For all enquiries, please contact your regional Safeguarding Officer.

Q & A: Who and What is ACSL ?

Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL) is the new national body for safeguarding for the Australian Catholic Church. ACSL integrates the functions of the former entities Catholic Professional Standards Ltd (CPSL), the Australian Catholic Centre for Professional Standards (ACCPs) as well as oversight of the Australian Catholic Ministry Register (ACMR). The role of ACSL is to streamline and coordinate the Church's work to create safe environments for children and adults at risk. As described on their [website](#), ACSL will 'promote and oversee a nationally consistent, comprehensive and sustainable framework for the protection of children and adults at risk within the Church in Australia.' This will be achieved by:

- maintaining the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) and supporting Catholic entities in their implementation of the NCSS
- implementing a framework for auditing and reporting of the safeguarding practices of Catholic entities
- overseeing the management of complaints against Church authorities and implementing and managing review of the National Response Protocol and other protocols
- administering the Australian Catholic Ministry Register (ACMR)
- supporting Church entities to comply with safeguarding legislative obligations.

Reflection... Our Parish Journey

In this edition of Safeguarding ALIVE, we are excited to highlight the Hawthorn Parish's safeguarding initiative. Fr Desmond Dwyer and his Safeguarding Committee at Immaculate Conception Church and St Joseph's Church, have created a unique way to gauge family parishioners' understanding, concern and ideas about safeguarding, through a simple but effective online survey. The idea of using a survey originated from the Safeguarding Committee's considerations on how to achieve Standard 3 of the [Parish or Entity Child Safety Assessment Tool](#). In Standard 3, parishes are asked to evidence how families, carers and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safeguarding.

Fr Desmond and the Safeguarding Committee believed a survey would be the most effective method of interacting with families, but what type of survey? The concept was to create a survey as simple and quick to answer as possible to maximise responses, but to still provide scope for detailed response. Therefore, to achieve this goal the Safeguarding Committee started to scour through relevant documents from the PSU and other documentation, that assisted in the creation of a couple of survey options. A sub-group of the Safeguarding Committee then reviewed the initial survey options and a final version was approved.

The final product was a mostly qualitative survey that consisted of two questions to parents/carers and three questions to their children, with a quantitative multiple choice question which asked which activity the child participated in. The questions were similar for both parent/carer and child however they altered their language to suit their audience. For example, the parents/carers were asked, "If you have any concerns about Child Safety in the parish please detail." While for the children it was, "We hope you always feel safe at our Parish, but if you don't, please let us know any people, things or places which make you feel UNSAFE when you are at this activity?"

The survey also allowed individuals to respond anonymously through an optional name and email question to promote honest and open response. Furthermore, a link was provided to the Parish's child safety page of their website, to further inform parents/carers and increase their awareness about safeguarding.

Fr Desmond and his Safeguarding Committee used Survey Monkey to create the survey as its basic plan is free, allows for up to 10 questions and 100 respondents. They emailed families who participate in their Sacramental Program a survey link and printed a few paper copies for participants in the Children's Liturgy and for these families whose contact details were not provided.

Congratulations to Fr Desmond Dwyer and his Safeguarding Committee.



Safeguarding Lens



Safeguarding Initiatives

In a recent article on the Melbourne Catholic website, we hear from several parishes regarding safeguarding initiatives occurring within their communities. We hear from Aimee Hellen, Business Manager (St Joseph's Parish, South Yarra), as well as Rodney Dearing who manages Finance and Administration (Nazareth Parish, Grovedale, Anglesea and Torquay), in regards to what parishes can do to ensure child safety. Read article [here](#).

Child Protection Week (5-11 September) – Safeguarding Sunday 12 September

Excerpt from [ACSL newsletter July 2021](#)

Safeguarding Sunday (formerly Child Protection Sunday) in the Catholic Church will be held this year on Sunday 12 September. Resources by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference can be found [here](#).

Catholic entities might also consider:

- promoting your local diocesan or congregational safeguarding policies and procedures in posters, newsletters, social media and other formats;
- having liturgies and/or masses focusing on Child Protection which may include active involvement of children;
- targeted prayers, hymns and homilies;
- engaging in formal recognition and thanks for those members of your local communities who are local safeguarding officers e.g. parish safeguarding personnel;
- inviting guest speakers with expertise in this field; or
- further resources, webinars to attend and ideas on how you can get involved in Child Protection Week from [National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect \(NAPCAN\)](#).

Helpful Links & Tools



- [Cultural Safety and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations](#) (image on left)
- Amongst other interesting items there are some beneficial training opportunities listed in the [ACSL July 2021 newsletter](#) which you may wish to communicate to the relevant people within your parish.

Risk Management Webinar

Tuesday 24 August, 11am-12.30pm

We invite you to join us in this webinar to explore:

- What is risk management?
- Why it is risk management important?
- How to identify safeguarding risks within a parish context.

At the webinar you will have the opportunity to hear from four guest panellists, who are Safeguarding Committee members at their respective parishes, as they share with us their experiences of successfully managing safeguarding risks within their parish.

Registrations essential to attend. [Click here.](#)

Professional Standards Unit

Phone: 9926 5621 | Email: psu@cam.org.au

Dr. Katherine Levi
Director

Phone: 0439 435 182 | Email: Katherine.Levi@cam.org.au

Loretta Hoban
Policy Advisor & National Redress Scheme Coordinator
Phone: 0429 816 342 | Email: Loretta.hoban@cam.org.au

SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS

Tamara Cugnetto
Phone: 0447 128 125 | Email: Tamara.cugnetto@cam.org.au

Luisa Pisano
Phone: 0439 205 682 | Email: Luisa.pisano@cam.org.au

Rosemary Teed
Phone: 0417 142 546 | Email: Rosemary.teed@cam.org.au

Brech Burgess
Phone: 0448 474 731 | Email: Brech.burgess@cam.org.au

“

Two are better off than one,
because together they can
work more effectively.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE