



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Welcome to Safeguarding ALIVE!

Dear friends

As 2022 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing and vital efforts to safeguard children in the Archdiocese. Untold hours are spent, largely on a voluntary basis, ensuring that children and young people are safe within our parishes. Your commitment to providing safe spaces where children are able to thrive emotionally, physically and spiritually is greatly valued. Your work is transformative, and we are very grateful for your partnership.

On behalf the Professional Standards Unit (to be known in 2023 as the Safeguarding Unit), I thank you and wish you a very happy and safe Christmas and new year.

With best wishes

Dr Katherine Levi



Safeguarding Essentials online training

The *Safeguarding Essentials* online training module for all CAM clergy and volunteers is now live!

Resources are also now available for parishes who wish to present *Safeguarding Essentials* in a group session. Please contact your regional safeguarding officer or psu@cam.org.au to obtain a copy.

Click below to find out more and to access the *Safeguarding Essentials* online training module.

[Find out more](#)

In the coming weeks, the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) will send each participating parish a report listing those volunteers within the parish who have completed the online module.



Reconnect, review, refocus: Self-Assessment Tool meetings for parishes 2022

Thank you to those parishes that have submitted their [Parish and Entity Child Safety Assessment Tool](#), along with the additional [Self-Assessment Tool for Victorian Child Safe Standard 1](#) for 2022, and to those who have either met with their regional safeguarding officer or reached out to make a time in the new year.

If you haven't done so already, we encourage you to reconnect with your regional safeguarding officer to organise a progress review meeting and to discuss the Self-Assessment Tool in early 2023.

What is the process for the 2022 progress review meetings?

The process for progress review meetings in 2022—for parishes to discuss the Self-Assessment Tool with their regional PSU safeguarding officer—is outlined below.



1. RECONNECT

Parishes are encouraged to reconnect with safeguarding officers anytime from **1 October 2022 to early 2023** for a safeguarding progress review meeting.



2. REVIEW

Before the progress review meeting, parishes are invited to share the parish's Self-Assessment Tool in its **current format** with safeguarding officers.



3. REFOCUS

During the meeting, safeguarding officers will provide support and guidance to the parish in relation to progressing their implementation of the safeguarding framework.

Safeguarding officers will assist in identifying the gaps within the parish and work together with them to draft a realistic, supportive action plan.

This progress review meeting is *not* an audit from the PSU, but rather an opportunity to share and discuss progress made and to set goals for the parish.

A list of frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the Self-Assessment Tool can be found [here](#).



The importance of safeguarding

New research has again highlighted the importance of safeguarding and the prevalence of child abuse. [Recent research](#) conducted at the Australian Childhood Foundation found that:

- 18 per cent of respondents knew of a child or teenager who had experienced sexual abuse or exploitation online over the past five years
 - the top barriers to individuals reporting concerns of abuse were that:
 - they may feel unsure the abuse is actually taking place (30 per cent)
 - they may not know the right thing to do (21 per cent)
 - one in six respondents believed that sometimes children are responsible for the abuse they receive from others
 - one in six respondents believed that an adult should not be blamed for abusing a child if they get so angry that they lose control.
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Sharing the safeguarding journey—Vietnamese Catholic Community, Flemington

On 14 October, safeguarding officers Brech Burgess and Tamara Cugnetto co-facilitated a safeguarding training session at the St Vincent Liem Centre for the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Flemington.

Working collaboratively with Fr Minh-Uoc Pham SJ, Fr Van Ai Pham SJ and administrative assistant Ms Huyen Nguyen, the PSU developed a training session to meet the particular needs of the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Flemington. As many volunteers within the community did not speak English fluently, a Vietnamese-translated PowerPoint presentation was used, and clergy and community leaders co-facilitated the session, interpreting it into Vietnamese.

The day began with warm introductions, followed by a general induction into the safeguarding framework and requirements. After enjoying a delicious Vietnamese meal together, the group of 57 participants worked in small groups to examine case studies and explore risk assessments.

Feedback received from the Vietnamese Catholic Community in Flemington has been positive. The use of practical examples and strategies was especially appreciated by the group.

We applaud the participants for their enthusiasm and commitment to deepening their knowledge of safeguarding and to increasing safeguarding awareness in their community.



Photos courtesy of the St Vincent Liem Centre.



Western Region safeguarding workshops

Braybrook workshop

On 6 October, Rosemary Teed, Safeguarding Officer for the Western Region, facilitated the *Safeguarding Connections* workshop at Holy Family Parish in Braybrook.

Six parishes were represented from the Western Plains and Western Highway deaneries, with 23 people attending. Connections were re-established and new networks formed as participants discussed their safeguarding highlights and challenges during 2022.



The remainder of the workshop focussed on completing the new VCSS Standard 1 and discussing next steps. Informal conversations continued over lunch and morning tea, and everyone agreed on the enormous value of face-to-face workshops such as this.

Sincere thanks to Fr Rene Ramirez and his team, especially Mertz, for hosting the workshop and for all their assistance .

Geelong Workshop

On 9 November, Rosemary Teed ran the *Working Together* safeguarding workshop at St Mary of the Angels Parish in Geelong.

Twenty-three volunteers from the Geelong and Corio/Lara parishes, along with Fr Jim Clarke, Fr Jaycee Napoles (Geelong) and Fr Daryl Montecillo (Corio/Lara), completed the *Safeguarding Essentials* online training module together as a group.

Insightful and thought-provoking conversations took place throughout the workshop, with a focus on the importance of working together to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. After lunch, a series of case studies gave participants an opportunity to demonstrate and reinforce what they had learnt.

The PSU thanks Fr Jim Clarke and his team, especially Rebecca, for hosting the workshop and for all their support.



Photos by Rosemary Teed (with written permission of subjects).



We want to hear from you

Tell us what future training topics you would be interested in and what safeguarding resources would be of benefit to your parish and team.

Take our quick [survey here](#).

Get in touch with the PSU team

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*The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity
of children, young people and adults.*

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