

Thursday, 2 February 2023 9:39 AM
Safeguarding ALIVE: February 2023

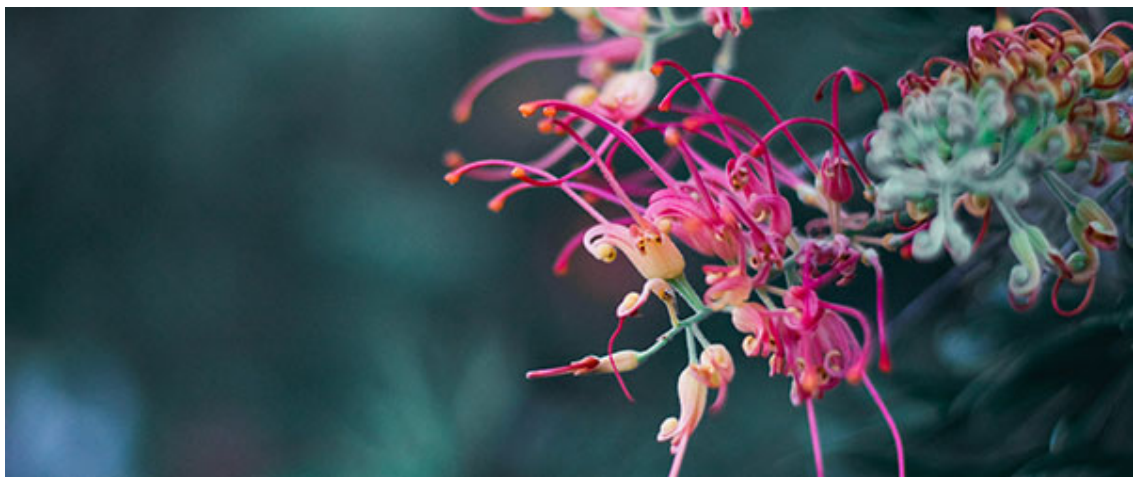


CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Welcome to Safeguarding ALIVE!

In this edition, you will find information on:

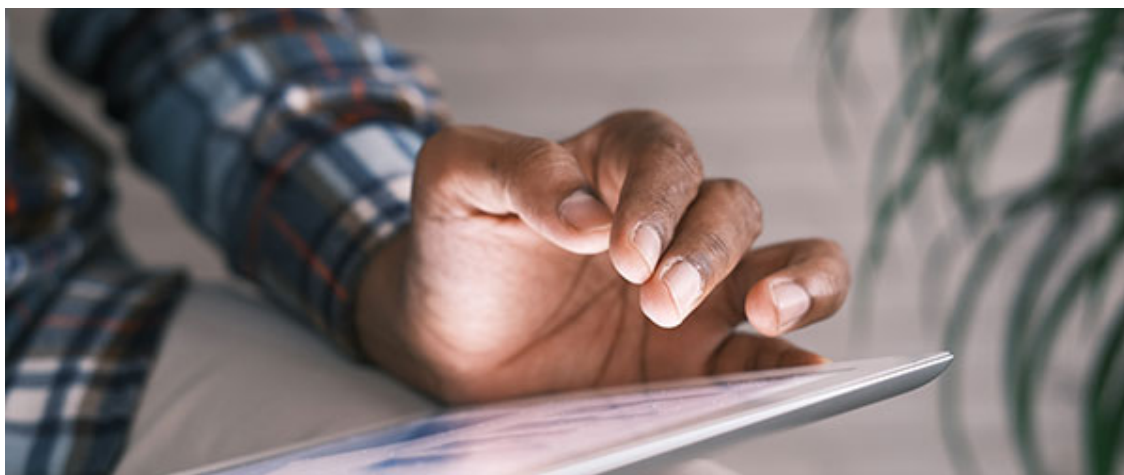
- the renaming of the Professional Standards Unit to the Safeguarding Unit
- how the Safeguarding Essentials online training requirement now aligns with the Safeguarding Code of Conduct timeframes
- the newly released National Catholic Safeguarding Standards Edition 2
- upcoming community events such as Safer Internet Day and Harmony Day
- links to a range of learning and development opportunities.



PSU name change to the Safeguarding Unit

With [Pathways Victoria](#) now fully operational, the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) will have a singular focus on supporting parishes to create safe communities for children and adults and will no longer focus on investigation. As a result, the Archdiocese has renamed the PSU the **Safeguarding Unit** to more accurately reflect the main focus of our work. The Safeguarding Unit will also take complaints and refer them to Pathways Victoria for investigation. Complaints can also be made directly to Pathways Victoria. Pathways Victoria also handles investigations for the other Catholic dioceses in Victoria.

On 8 March, the Safeguarding Unit will host an online information session to introduce you to Pathways Victoria staff and give you an opportunity to learn more about how Pathways Victoria operates, how it can assist parishes and how it works to support victims of abuse. Bookings for this information session can be made [here](#).



Safeguarding Essentials training and Code of Conduct signing aligned

The Safeguarding Unit are pleased to advise that the frequency with which clergy, staff and volunteers are required to sign the Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct has now been aligned with the renewal timeframe for the Safeguarding Essentials online training module.

	Safeguarding Children and Young People Code of Conduct re-signing	Safeguarding Essentials online training module completion
Clergy	Annually	Annually
Staff	Annually	Annually
Volunteers	Every 3 years	Every 3 years

To further streamline parish administrative tasks, our team are currently working with the IT department to embed the Code of Conduct document into the online training module, so that it can be signed electronically at the completion of the online module. We will update parishes when this has been finalised.

The individual training records of those who have already undertaken the Safeguarding Essentials module online have been amended to reflect the new renewal dates. Parishes who have completed group training sessions are advised to notify their volunteers of these changes to renewal dates.



New NCSS launched

Five years after the final report of Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the [second edition of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards \(NCSS\)](#) has been released. Importantly, the much-anticipated second edition covers adults at risk, as well as children.

As Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL) continues to release guidance and learning materials to address the new requirements of NCSS Edition 2, the Safeguarding Unit of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne will modify existing policies and procedures to reflect these important changes.

In particular, the Parish and Entity Self-Assessment Tool, which is currently being revised, will incorporate changes within NCSS Edition 2.

Visit the [ACSL website](#) for further information.



Join us in supporting Safer Internet Day on 7 February 2023

On Tuesday 7 February 2023, the 20th Safer Internet Day will be observed globally. In a world that is more connected than ever before, online safety awareness is becoming even more important.

Read [this story](#) on *Melbourne Catholic* to learn more.

You can also find resources to promote this event in your parish communities on the [eSafety Commission website](#).



Celebrating Harmony Day on 21 March 2023

Australia is a nation blessed by the cultural diversity of its communities. Not only are there more than 70 Indigenous languages spoken, but 49 per cent of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was.

Harmony Day is a national celebration of Australia's multiculturalism. With the recurring message that 'everyone belongs', Harmony Day reminds us to appreciate the diversity of cultures that enrich our community and to respect the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of their background or circumstances.

Find out more about how your parish can become involved in Harmony Day and celebrate your community's cultural diversity by clicking [here](#).



Safeguarding lens

A culture of joyful acceptance of all children

Children and young people with a disability often face wide-ranging barriers to active participation in our community.

The devaluing of children and young people with a disability at a societal level can create conditions within families, organisations and our parish communities that contribute to discrimination, disempowerment and/or abuse.

A [recent story in Catholic Weekly](#) highlights the importance of parishes continuing to be places of compassion and inclusion for people of all abilities, allowing those with a disability to engage happily in parish life, and valuing and upholding the dignity of all.

Links to NCSS 4 and VCSS 5—Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.



Upcoming events and training

Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding Induction sessions

Facilitated online by Dr Katherine Levi, these compulsory induction sessions are specifically designed for clergy and employees who are newly appointed to the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne and its parishes.

[Wednesday 1 March, 11.00am–12.30pm](#)

[Wednesday 26 April, 1.30–3.00pm](#)

Sensitively Handling Disclosures of Abuse workshop

Due to overwhelming interest, the Safeguarding Unit are pleased to announce a new session of this popular workshop facilitated by Dr Katherine Levi.

Designed for clergy, parish employees and safeguarding committee members, this interactive online workshop will help you to sensitively handle disclosures of abuse from a child, young person or their family.

[Wednesday 15 February, 1.00–3.30pm](#)

Pathways Victoria Information Session

Dr Katherine Levi (Director, Safeguarding Unit) and Tamara Cugnetto (Senior Safeguarding Officer, Safeguarding Unit) are joined by Stephanie Thirlwall (Response and Resolution Director, Pathways Victoria) to discuss the role of Pathways Victoria in supporting victims and survivors of abuse, responding to allegations and providing a mechanism for the resolution of matters. This conversation will also explore how the Safeguarding Unit of the Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne will work with Pathways Victoria and what this means for parishes.

[Wednesday 8 March, 3.00–4.00pm](#)

NATSICC Cultural Competency in a Catholic Context course

The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Council (NATSICC) has developed a foundational online cross-cultural competency course for all Catholic workers, volunteers, clergy and religious. This course has a Catholic focus and equips participants with the knowledge and skills to engage effectively with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. To find out how your parish can access this training, click [here](#).

eSafety Webinars

The Office of the eSafety Commissioner is also conducting a range of parent webinars during Term 1, which you may wish to promote to your community. Some

of the topics include:

- eSafety 101
- setting your child up for success online
- getting the most out of gaming
- navigating online friendships.

To register and to find our more, click [here](#).



Dates to remember

Safer Internet Day: 7 February

Harmony Week: 21 March

National Volunteer Week: 15–21 May

Reconciliation Week: 27 May – 3 June

Child Protection Week (Safeguarding Sunday): 5–11 September

Children’s Week: 21–29 October

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Missed an edition? [View previous editions of the PSU Safeguarding newsletter](#)

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

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