SAFEGUARDING AND MINISTERIAL INTEGRITY OFFICE
November 2021 Quarterly Newsletter

The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'
Luke 2:10-11

This Issue:

- ***10 Child Safe Standards***
- ***Child Protection Week Resources***
- ***Safeguarding Training***
- ***Self-Assessments***
- ***Child-Related Activity Register***
- ***Visiting Clergy Register***

Click on the image below to be directed to the Safeguarding Website

Dear Agencies, Parishes, Chaplaincies and Safeguarding Support Officers,

Christmas is fast approaching! This year has been a difficult and challenging year for many. The Safeguarding Office would like to thank everyone for their support and dedication to Safeguarding within their communities this year. We would also like to thank you for your hard work in submitting the Child-Related Activity Register, completing Self-Assessments and participating in Child Protection Week.

The Safeguarding Office would like to take the time to wish you and all your loved ones a happy, holy and safe Christmas.

The Safeguarding Office will be closed from 22 December 2021 and will be back on 4 January 2022. We are looking forward to working with you all in the new year!

Office of the Children's Guardian 10 Child Safe Standards

On Wednesday 10 November 2021, NSW Parliament passed the *Children's Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Bill 2021*. This Scheme focuses on how organisations protect children and implement the Child Safe Scheme, a key recommendation of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The Scheme gives the Office of the Children's Guardian (OCG) additional powers to monitor and investigate how organisations implement the Child Safe Standards to support the safety and wellbeing of Children and Young People. Under the new Scheme, certain child-related organisations including religious organisations will be required to implement the Child Safe Standards. Click on the link to view the Archdiocese of Sydney Fact Sheet: Office of the Children's Guardian 10 Child Safe Standards.

2021 Child Protection Week Resources

The Safeguarding Office is pleased to inform you of the new Child Protection Week Resources. The below resources meets Standard 2 and 3 of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards as well as Standard 2 and 3 the Office of the Children's Guardian Child Safe Standards. Click on the images below to download the resources.

Feeling Safe Activity Book

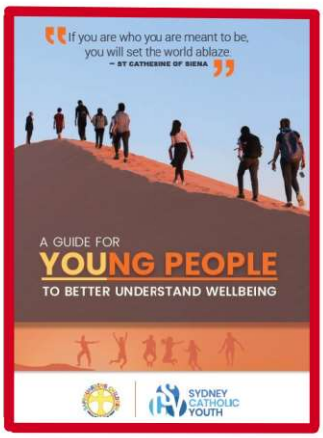
The Feeling Safe Activity Book is for children aged between 3 – 12 years and has been designed for Children to help them explore and understand what emotions and feelings are.

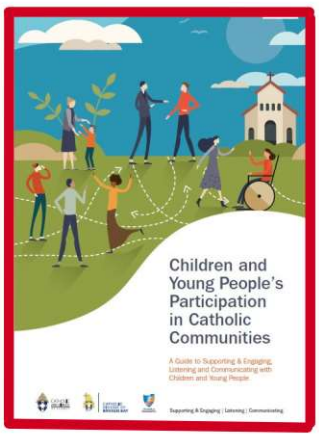
A Guide for Young People to Better Understanding Wellbeing

A Guide for Young People to Better Understand Wellbeing has been developed for Young People aged 13 – 17 years. This guide has been designed to help Young People understand and manage their overall sense of wellbeing. It is important for us all to nurture our wellbeing as we journey through our day-to-day lives. New challenges can arise causing us to lose our sense of peace; impacting us spiritually, physically and mentally.

A Guide to Supporting & Engaging, Listening and Communicating with Children and Young People

The guide helps inform adults within the catholic community how to provide children and young people with an opportunity to experience meaningful contributions to decision making, to be heard, to be taken seriously and to feel safe in doing so.





2021 Safeguarding Training Compliance

This year has been a remarkable year for Safeguarding Training Compliance. Even though COVID-19 restrictions didn't allow us to present training face-to-face, this didn't stop the overwhelming flood of Safeguarding Training registrations coming through the Office. This year the following Training Compliance has been achieved:

- 97% of Clergy within the Archdiocese have completed their training requirements;
- 95% of Agency Staff within the Archdiocese have completed their training requirements; and
- Over 1500 lay workers have completed Online Safeguarding Training.

The Safeguarding Office is proposing a new training strategy for Clergy in 2022 and we would like to hear your thoughts. We are proposing that a member of the Safeguarding Team will come and visit every Parish in 2022 to provide a personalised support package to the Priests of the Parish, Parish Staff and volunteers. The personalised support package will help in preparing our parishes for ACSL's audit as well as provide parishes with the opportunity to have any of their Safeguarding questions/queries answered. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please email **safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org** with your thoughts about our proposed 2022 training.

For Clergy who haven't yet completed Level 1 Safeguarding Training or who aren't in Parishes, you will be required to register for the usual Safeguarding training. 2022 Training dates will be available on the Safeguarding website in early January, please be on the lookout.

Safeguarding Support Officers

The Safeguarding Office would like to extend a special *thank you* to all the Safeguarding Support Officers. This year has been very difficult and challenging but you have all managed to still commit 100% to ensuring that your community environment is safe for our Children and Young People.

Another big thank you to the Safeguarding Support Officers that assisted with the emoji competition in their community for Child Protection Week. We had well over 100 designs submitted and we are proud to say that this year was our largest competition return.

We are hoping that in 2022 we will be able to catch up with you all face-to-face!

Commitment Statement

The emotional, physical and spiritual safety, well-being and dignity of Children is an integral part of the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. The Archdiocese is wholly committed to ensuring the safety, well-being and dignity of all Children, and acknowledges its important legal, moral and spiritual responsibility to create a safe and nurturing environment for those Children.