



2022 Safeguarding and Child Protection Training

The 2022 Training packages have been finalised for both clergy and lay. We have had an amazing response from clergy and lay getting in early with their training registration. We can tell it is going to be a busy year with lots of training!

The Safeguarding Office takes the safety and welfare of all clergy, employees and volunteers seriously. Due to current health and safety concerns around COVID-19, the Safeguarding Office will present all training packages from January to June via Zoom. The location of training sessions from July to November will be evaluated depending on COVID-19 and the Archdiocese of Sydney's regulations and restrictions. Dates and times for all Safeguarding Training packages are available on the 2022 Training timetable which can be viewed on the [Safeguarding Website](#).

New Safeguarding Refresher Training for Volunteers

The Safeguarding Office is pleased to announce that our Online Safeguarding Refresher Training for volunteers is now available via zoom or online. It is mandatory within the Archdiocese and a requirement in terms of meeting our obligations under the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (Standard 7), that every three years Volunteers complete refresher Safeguarding Training.

Volunteers can register for the new Refresher Training via this link <https://forms.gle/XuQFsRsvq3BYtXqT9> (which is a different link from the other online training registrations) if they wish to complete training online. The Refresher training is also available via Zoom, dates for the Zoom Refresher Training can be accessed via the 2022 training timetable. Volunteers will simply need to register their attendance by emailing safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org

The Safeguarding Office understands that online training may be difficult for some individuals to access especially the volunteers in the Parish. The Safeguarding Office is happy to provide a 6 month training extensions for volunteers in the Parish who are required to complete Refresher training but cannot access training online.

New Clergy Safeguarding Training Package

The Safeguarding Office has launched a new Clergy training module called '*Understanding Risks and Standards*.' This new module will look at increasing your understanding of risks as well as increasing your understanding of the standards.

Just a reminder to all Parish Priests, Administrators and Agency Heads if you have any new paid staff starting with you this year they will need to register for the Level 1 Safeguarding Training for Parish and Agency Staff. Please ensure all staff have completed the correct Safeguarding Training, if you are unsure if your staff have completed their training requirements please contact Anna Sammut on 9390 5811 or anna.sammut@sydneycatholic.org

Continuous Improvement and Meeting Standards

At the Safeguarding Office we are committed to implementing the Standards and to making the Archdiocese of Sydney safer for Children and Young People. To implement the Standards this requires a sustained, collective effort and action from all our Clergy, Agencies, Parishes and Chaplaincy Communities. This section of the newsletter will provide information how we can all comply and meet Standards in order to keep Children and Young People safe. Below is a brief overview of the Standards that the Archdiocese of Sydney must comply with.

10 Child Safe Standards - Office of the Children's Guardian

The Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission provide a framework for making organisations safer for children. They have been accepted by the NSW government. The Standards provide tangible guidance for organisations to create cultures, adopt strategies and act to put the interests of children first, to keep them safe from harm.

10 National Catholic Safeguarding Standards - Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL)

The National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) create a framework for Catholic entities to promote the safety of children and adults at risk. They outline the policies and activities that will prevent, respond to, and support reporting of concerns regarding child abuse. The Standards work together to ensure that every entity, ministry and organisation across the Catholic Church places the safety of children and adults at risk at the core of how they plan, think and act.

10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations - Australian Human Rights Commission

The National Principles reflect ten child safe standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and are the vehicle for giving effect to recommendations relating to the standards. The National Principles have a broader scope that goes beyond child sexual abuse to cover other forms of potential harm to children and young people.

Child-Related Activity Register and Visiting Clergy Registers

Standard 9 of the Child Safe Standards, National Catholic Standards and National Principles refers to Continuous Improvement. This Standard focus is ensuring that there is monitoring and continual improvement of child safeguarding practices and that these practices are reviewed, tracked and reported.

The returns and audits of Child-Related Activity Registers and Visiting Clergy Registers helps the Archdiocese's and Parishes to meet this Standard.

Child-Related Activity Registers and Visiting Clergy Registers for the period of July - December 2021 are now due back to the Chancery Office for auditing. Remember even if your Visiting Clergy Register is blank you still need to return it. All Registers are to be emailed to ministry@sydneycatholic.org.

We request that all Priests of our Parishes display the Safeguarding notice below in all future parish bulletins.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney:

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at **(02) 9390 5810** or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org.

You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance.

The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

Sharing Knowledge

The Apostle Peter in his first letter to his congregation, reminded them that trauma was a normal experience for people.

My dear friends, do not be taken aback at the testing by fire which is taking place among you, as though something strange were happening to you;

1 Peter 4:12



Sharing Knowledge Resource 1.

Trauma informed Care

Standard 7 of the Child Safe Standards, National Catholic Standards and National Principles refers to Training and ongoing education. At the Safeguarding Office we believe that knowledge is power and no one is ever too old or wise to keep learning. We want to make sure that we can provide everyone in the Archdiocese with ongoing education that is not only useful within the Archdiocese but also outside. This quarterly newsletter is going to look at Trauma informed Care.

Any one of us can be affected by trauma. Many lives have been and will be devastated by traumatic events. Three in four Australians will experience an event that can cause psychological trauma in their lifetime, that's nearly 19 million people living in Australia today. Psychological trauma comes in many forms and impacts people from all walks of life.

What is Trauma?

Trauma is when you experience something that is deeply distressing or disturbing to you. It is the emotional, psychological and physiological residue left over from heightened stress that accompanies experiences of threat, violence and life-challenging events.

4 ways you and your community can become trauma informed

1. Be alert to trauma symptoms and honour them.

People who have been traumatised in some way do not necessarily carry wounds on their body, they may display signs of anxiousness or low self-esteem. Trauma will effect everyone differently and it will shape their emotions and modes of communication differently.

2. Consider that individuals who have gone through trauma may have difficulty with their faith

Traumatic experiences shape how individuals look at the world, we can't go back in time and change their traumatic experiences, but we can give them understanding and give them the message '*you are loved by God.*'

3. Signal your support

You may never know whom in your community has gone through a traumatic event, but clergy and workers can find ways to begin to signal to individuals that the parish/agency/chaplaincy supports them. For example, add intercessions for people who are suffering emotionally and spiritually to the Prayer of the Faithful. Place a weekly announcement in the parish bulletin or on the website advertising the support services available.

4. Listen for the voice of God in those who have been traumatised

Most individuals who are or who have experienced trauma want to be heard and to have their very real pain and hurt acknowledged. They also want a compassionate response from the Church - we must remember to respect individuals who have been traumatised and not dismiss them.

Reference: Saunders, S. and Jerome Scarsella, H, 2021. 6 Ways Clergy and Church Leaders Can Build Trauma-Sensitive Parishes.

Trauma informed Information

If you would like to understand a little more about trauma, you can view the '*Understanding Trauma*' video under the [Information and Resources button](#) located on the Safeguarding website.