

# SAFEGUARDING NEWS




FEBRUARY 2025


care | protect | act



The Safeguarding office was established in May 2017 for the purpose of supporting, strengthening and embedding a safeguarding culture. Raising awareness regarding our collective responsibility to protect the safety, well being and dignity of all within our Diocese.

## Safeguarding Office :

 02 6621 9444

 [www.lismorediocese.org](http://www.lismorediocese.org)

 [safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)

## From the Safeguarding Team

*Welcome to 2025,*

The Safeguarding Office kicks 2025 off with a NEW team member. We extend a warm welcome to our newest team member Melinda (Mel). Melinda's role in the team will be a Safeguarding Officer.

Mel has an extensive background in the NSW Police Force and along with some experience within the NSW Department of Education and brings a range of specialist skills and knowledge to this important role.

We look forward to 2025 and the support our Office will be providing the Diocese Safeguarding related.

Please joining us in welcoming Mel.

## 11th February 2025 is Safer Internet Day

Join us in supporting Safer Internet Day

We use the internet in almost every aspect of our lives, so it's important to understand the risks, design and develop products with user safety in mind and promote online safety to our users. This is why we're joining the eSafety Commissioner on Tuesday 11 February to support Safer Internet Day.

We encourage you to get involved and reflect on eSafety's Safety by Design principles when designing and developing online spaces. Free tools and resources for industry are available on eSafety's website to help us understand our obligations towards user safety and how we can all embed safety into our organisation's culture, ethos and operations.

By prioritising Safety by Design, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.

Visit [eSafety.gov.au/SID](http://eSafety.gov.au/SID) to sign up as a supporter and learn more.

Julie, Christine & Mel.



Mel Iverson  
Safeguarding Officer



Julie Patston  
Safeguarding Manager



Christine Thompson  
Education and Compliance Officer

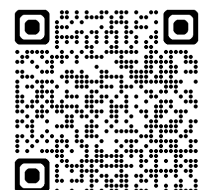
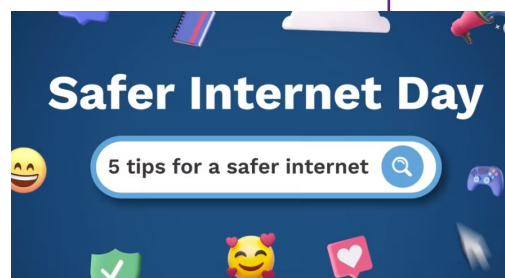
## Awareness Days -

### March

- 1: Zero Discrimination Day
- 3: World Hearing Awareness Day
- 7: World Day of Prayer
- 8: International Women's Day
- 15-21 : Harmony Week
- 21: Harmony Day

### April

- April: Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)
- 9-17: NSW Youth Week



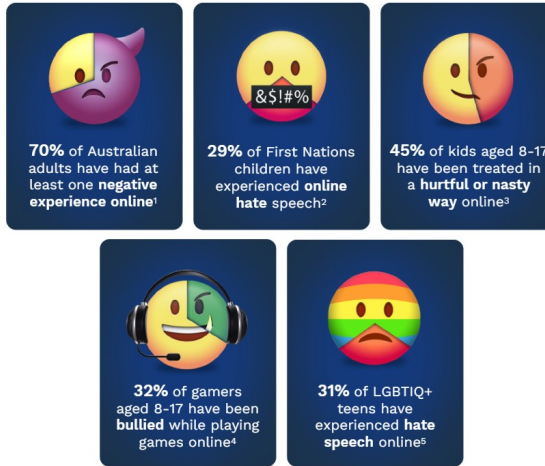
**"We all have the duty to do good"**  
- Pope Francis

## Safer Internet Day 2025— Tuesday the 11th of February.

Safer Internet Day is a global day of action bringing communities, schools, organisations and families from more than 180 countries together to raise awareness of online safety issues and work towards a safer internet. The eSafety Commissioner leads the day in Australia and we're calling on all Australians to help make the internet a safer, and more positive place

Why is Safer Internet Day important? Whether you're working, learning, playing or scrolling – the internet is a huge part of life. It opens a world of opportunities, but also comes with risks, especially for young people and other at-risk groups.

Let's look at the numbers that remind us why online safety is so important.



### 5 tips for a safer internet

- Create a kinder world**  
Practice respect, empathy, and kindness online.
- Start the conversation**  
"So...how do you keep safe online?" ask your friends, family and community!
- Be mindful**  
Balance your time online and be smart about the content you watch and share.
- Speak up**  
Tell a trusted adult and report online abuse and harmful content.
- Get support**  
There's a young people's section just for you. Visit [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au).

Together, let's make the internet a safer, more positive place.

eSafety Commissioner [eSafety.gov.au](https://www.esafety.gov.au)

## Embedding Safeguarding in our Diocese:

**Training:** Ballina parish will be hosting the Office of the Children's Guardian for training on Wednesday the 5th of February. What a wonderful opportunity to present training to the Diocese and to the local parish communities surrounding Ballina. It's not too late to register.

**Safeguarding Checklist and Self Assessment and Continuous Improvement;** Annual checklists and Safeguarding Self-Assessment reviews for Parishes will be completed by the end of February 2025 for the remaining parishes yet to complete. Please email Christine to make your scheduled visit.  
[cthompson@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:cthompson@lismore.catholic.org.au)

*The Safeguarding Office would like to say thank you for ensuring your Parish and our Diocese Culture towards Safeguarding is a positive approach for the protection and safety for all.*  
**The Safeguarding Team**

## free TRAINING

A Safeguarding Workshop

PRESENTED BY CRAIG THACKER  
CHILD SAFE TRAINING OFFICER

February 5, 2025  
In person  
9:30 AM - 1 PM

St Francis Xavier  
Catholic Parish  
Ballina

Register now!

Reporting Obligations and Processes  
9:30am - 11:00am

Empowerment and Participation  
11:30am - 1:00pm  
Tea, Coffee and a Light Lunch will be provided

## Diocese of Lismore : Safeguarding Office

Scan the QR code to access the Diocese Webpage and the Safeguarding Office.



The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contactable if you have any Safeguarding concerns, We will listen to you respectfully and offer support.

Contact the Safeguarding Office  
Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email:  
[safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)