

SAFEGUARDING NEWS



MARCH 2024

care | protect | act



Please nominate someone in your office to ensure this email is forwarded to all Parish and Diocesan staff members

From the Safeguarding Team



Our Team



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Safeguarding
Manager



**Christine
Thompson,**
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(Mon-Thu)



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6621 9444



We thank each of the parishes for your continued support and commitment as we work together in promoting our safe communities among the Diocese.

Our updated Safeguarding Awareness training is now revised and it includes Adults at Risk. The objective of the training is to equip all within the Diocese with knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and adults at risk safe. This is achieved through continual education and training.

To begin with, a paper copy will be provided to parishes that allows parishioners to complete the Awareness Training at home. There is also a Question & Answer booklet that they need to complete to prove the training has been done.

It is very important that the training print-out you use for home training includes all the PowerPoints **notes below the slides**, as there is key knowledge individuals must be informed of.

Completed Q & A booklets are checked by the Parish office, which then provides us with the names of people who have successfully completed the training so we can issue them with a Certificate.

For Parish training days, please email Christine to discuss small group face-to-face session.

April's Safeguarding theme is **YOUTH** - to celebrate their contribution and also to focus on their issues. You can use some of your eSafety resources this month as well, as so many young people face issues online. See Page 6 for more information.

FOR IN THE NEWS please see the accompanying Word doc for latest stories with live links.

Remember - we are only a phone call or an email away, if you have any questions or need clarity, please make contact. Thank you for your continued support!

The Safeguarding Team

TRAINING UPDATE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

2-Day, DV-Alert Foundation Course

Learn how to recognise the signs of domestic violence, respond appropriately, and refer to support services. More dates to come.

See Word doc for link

AGED CARE

Planning for Diversity

Older Persons Advocacy Network's Planning for Diversity workshop series offers practical information and tools to make your services more inclusive of older people from diverse and marginalised groups.

See Word doc for link to REGISTER

OPAN 'Talk to Us First'

A free, short education program dedicated to help aged-care providers and professionals to meet the Aged Care Quality Standards 6, ensuring older people feel safe, encouraged, and supported to give feedback or make a complaint.

See word doc for link to REGISTER

eSAFETY

Free online Webinars

Each webinar is designed to improve your understanding and response to online challenges your child may face. The webinar topics include:

- eSafety 101: How eSafety can help
- Understanding how to support your child with online gaming
- Understanding parental controls to safeguard your child
- Online safety and social media: TikTok, YouTube and Instagram .

See Word doc for link to REGISTER



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

Renewing your WWCC

There are 2 ways to renew your Working with Children Check (WWCC), depending on how you choose to have your identification verified:

- **Online using face verification** – instead of going into a Service NSW Centre to present your identity documents, you renew online and use your device to scan your face. The scan is matched with the photo used on your NSW Driver Licence or NSW Photo Card.
- **At a Service NSW Centre** – you need to complete the Office of the Children’s Guardian (OCG) renewal application form, then visit a service centre within 28 days to present the original version of your identity documents and pay your fee if required.

Your WWCC expires after **5 years**. You’ll be notified by email 3 months before its expiry date. You can renew your WWCC from this time.

Renew ONLINE using face verification

What you need:

- A MyServiceNSW Account with the ‘Working with Children Check’ service added:
- You can create an account when you start your application.
- You’ll need your mobile phone to receive an SMS code for 2-step authentication.
- Add the Working with Children Check service when you’re logged into your account.
- **THREE** current identity documents:
 - NSW Driver Licence or NSW Photo Card
 - one such as Australian passport, Australian birth certificate, foreign passport with an Australian visa
 - one such as Medicare card, Pensioner concession card, Seniors Health Card, Health Care Card
- A device with a working front camera to complete face verification
- A credit or debit card, PayPal or PayID (if payment is required).

Change of name

If you’ve changed your name on your identity documents since the last time you applied for or renewed your WWCC, **you cannot renew online**. You’ll need to renew at a **service centre** and have your new identity documents verified.



Face verification

Face verification is a way of proving who you are.

During the online renewal process, there are steps on how to scan your face using your device’s camera. You will need to move your face very close to the camera and hold it steady for 5 to 10 seconds. If you will find this difficult, you may find it easier to visit a service centre.

Service NSW does not store any images from the face verification process. We only keep a record of the outcome of the process.

Renew at Service NSW

If you choose to have your identity documents verified at a service centre, you first need to complete the OCG renewal application form.

You’ll need:

- your WWCC number
- 4 identity documents.

When you’ve completed the form, an application (APP) number will be emailed to you.

Then visit a service centre and take:

- The email that shows your APP number
- Your original identity documents
- Your payment, if applicable.

You have 28 days to visit a service centre. After 28 days the APP number will expire and you’ll need to apply again.



Dates for the Diary

March

Month Theme: CALD (Cultural and Linguistic Diversity) - Inclusiveness, diversity and cultural acceptance

See Page 4

21 National Close the Gap Day
closethegap.org.au/close-the-gap-day/

21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
www.un.org/en/observances/end-racism-day

21 Harmony Day
www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/FlagPost/2012/March/Harmony_Day_-_a_celebration_of_cultural_diversity

20-26 Harmony Week
www.harmony.gov.au/about/

21-27 Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination
www.un.org/en/observances/end-racism-day

23 Earth Hour
www.earthhour.org.au/

21 International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
www.un.org/en/observances/end-racism-day

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid “pass laws” in 1960. In 1979, the General Assembly decided that a week of solidarity with the peoples struggling against racism and racial discrimination, beginning on 21 March, would be organized annually in all States.

Since then, the apartheid system in South Africa has been dismantled. Racist laws and practices have been abolished in many countries, and we have built an international framework for fighting racism, guided by the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

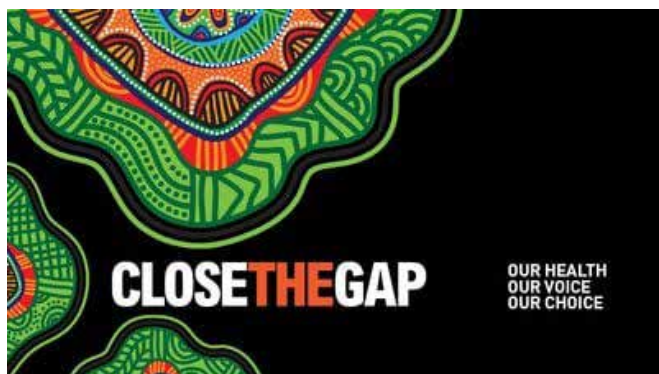
21-27 Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination
www.un.org/en/observances/end-racism-day

21 Harmony Day
www.ceh.org.au/harmony-day-march-on/

20-26 Harmony Week
www.harmony.gov.au/about/

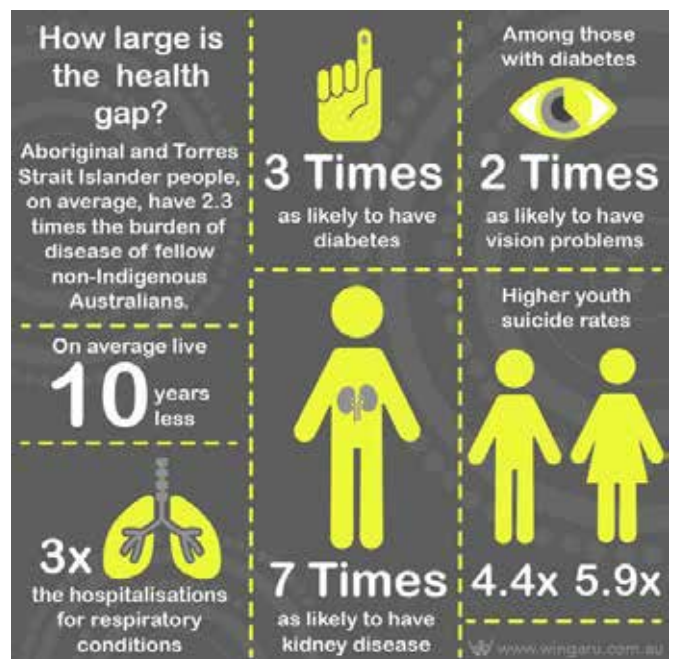


Harmony Week is the celebration that recognises our diversity and brings together Australians from all different backgrounds. It’s about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. You can wear orange to show your support, or you can attend/host a Harmony Week event.



21 National Close the Gap Day
closethegap.org.au/close-the-gap-day/

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have some of the poorest health outcomes of any group of people in the world. On average, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples die more than 10 years younger than other Australians. Despite the efforts of many organisations, the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people’s life expectancy is widening not closing. This needs to be turned around with action and commitments from political leaders. The Close the Gap campaign aims to achieve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health equality by 2030.



Safeguarding Theme

March: CALD (Cultural and Linguistic Diversity) -

Inclusiveness, diversity and cultural acceptance

Australia is one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse countries in the world. However, some people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds face greater challenges when dealing with the health and welfare system. Language barriers, lower health literacy, and difficulties navigating an unfamiliar system put them at greater risk of poorer quality health care, service delivery and poorer health outcomes compared with other Australians.

The term ‘culturally and linguistically diverse’ refers to people from a range of countries and ethnic and cultural groups. It includes people of non-English speaking background as well as people born outside Australia but whose first language is English, and encompasses a wide



<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about-us/our-portfolios/multicultural-affairs>

range of experiences and needs. In 2016, over a quarter of Australia’s population was born overseas, and nearly half had a parent who was born overseas. One in five people spoke a language other than English at home, and more than 300 languages were spoken in Australia.

Facts and figures

There are some fascinating statistics about Australia’s diversity that can be good conversation-starters:

- Nearly half (49 per cent) of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
- We identify with over 300 ancestries
- Since 1945, more than 7.5 million people have migrated to Australia
- 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia
- Apart from English, the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Arabic, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Italian, Greek, Tagalog/Filipino, Hindi, Spanish and Punjabi
- More than 70 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia.

These facts are taken from ABS 2016 Census Data.

Harmony celebrations

The Department of Home Affairs leads national celebrations for Harmony Week to recognise diversity and inclusion activities that take place during the entire week. Harmony Week is celebrated during the week (Monday to Sunday) that includes 21 March, which is the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

What is Harmony Week?

It is a time to celebrate Australian multiculturalism, and the successful integration of migrants into our community.

Australia is one of the most successful multicultural countries in the world and we should celebrate this and work to maintain it.

How to celebrate?

Come together with friends and family and through schools, workplaces and our wider communities to celebrate our diversity. Host an event or attend a local celebration.

Why orange?

Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Week. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect. Australians can choose to wear something orange during Harmony Week to show their support for cultural diversity.

Useful links

- **A Taste of Harmony** — A Taste of Harmony partner with the Australian Government on Harmony Week to celebrate cultural diversity. The Taste of Harmony website has inspirational event ideas that will help you celebrate diversity.
www.tasteofharmony.org.au
- **Harmony in the Workplace** — Developed by the Federation of Ethnic Communities’ Councils of Australia these resources and factsheets explore cultural diversity, workplace discrimination, myths and commonly held misconceptions about workplace diversity.
fecca.org.au/resources/harmony-and-productivity/
- **Workplace Cultural Diversity Tool** — The Australian Human Rights Commission has a free online tool to help business enhance productivity through a culturally diverse workplace.
<https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/race-discrimination/projects/workplace-cultural-diversity-tool>
- **Racism. It stops with me** supporter toolkit — The toolkit provides training tools and resources to help your organisation challenge prejudice and celebrate diversity.
<https://itstopswithme.humanrights.gov.au/take-action/support-the-campaign>

Source: <https://www.harmony.gov.au>

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - APRIL

Month Theme: YOUTH

See Page 5

APRIL: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/sexual-assault-in-australia/contents/summary>

11-24 (2024) National Youth Week

www.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/nsw-youth-week-2024

28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work

www.un.org/en/observances/work-safety-day



APRIL: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/sexual-assault-in-australia/contents/summary>

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month (SAAM), the goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness of the issue of sexual assault and educate our community on how we can all play a part in prevention.

This year, the theme is “*I Ask*”, which encourages everyone to put consent into practice.

Sexual assault is a major health and welfare issue in Australia and worldwide. For many victims, the effects can be wide-ranging and lifelong.

They can experience physical injuries, long-term mental health effects, and disruption to everyday activities such as eating and sleeping habits (ABS 2017; Cashmore & Shackel 2013; Hailes et al. 2019).

Between 2010 and 2018, rates of sexual assault victimisation recorded by police for Australians aged 15 and over rose by more than 30% (from 66.8 to 90.2 per 100,000) (based on ABS 2019). However, it is unclear whether this

Almost 2 million Australian adults have experienced at least 1 sexual assault since the age of 15

In 2017–18, 1 in 3 hospitalised sexual assault cases identified a spouse or domestic partner as the perpetrator

In 2018, the rate of police-recorded sexual assault was almost 7 times as high for females as males

Half of women did not seek advice or support after their most recent incident of sexual assault perpetrated by a male

(Personal Safety Survey 2016 (ABS, 2017))

According to the 2016 Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Personal Safety Survey (PSS):

- More than 200,000 (1.1%) Australian adults had experienced sexual assault in the 12 months before the survey—an increase from 2012 (0.7%)
- Around 639,000 Australian women experienced their most recent incident of sexual assault perpetrated by a male in the last 10 years.

reflects an increased incidence of sexual assault, an increased propensity to report sexual assault to police or increased reporting of historical crimes. Rates for children aged 0–14 remained stable in the 5 years up to 2018 (based on ABS 2019).

In 2018–19, the majority of sexual assault offenders recorded by police were male (97%); males aged 15–19 had the highest offender rates (102.9 per 100,000) of any age group (based on ABS 2020a).

Over half (57%) of offenders found guilty of perpetrating sexual assault were sentenced to custody in a correctional institution (based on ABS 2020b).

Drawing together available national data sources, this report provides a summary of sexual assault in Australia. However, several notable data gaps exist, including data on a range of health services and other crisis and long-term service responses.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - APRIL

Month Theme: **YOUTH**



11-24 (2024) National Youth Week
www.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/nsw-youth-week-2024

Youth Week began as a NSW Government initiative in 1989, and has since grown to be a celebration of young people in every state and territory across the country.

It is organised by young people, for young people, in communities across NSW and Australia. Following the success of the NSW Youth Week program, Youth Week became a national event in 2000. National Youth Week is jointly supported by the Australian government, state and territory governments and local governments.

If you're aged between 12 -24, Youth Week is an opportunity to:

- share ideas
- attend live events
- have your voice heard on issues of concern to you
- showcase your talents
- celebrate your contribution to the community
- take part in competitions
- have fun!

In 2019, an estimated 73,900 young people participated in Youth Week activities which took place between 10-18 April 2019. Over 740 events of varying sizes and activities were held.

28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work
www.un.org/en/observances/work-safety-day

In 2003, the International Labour Organization (ILO), began to observe World Day in order to stress the prevention of accidents and diseases at work, capitalizing on the ILO's traditional strengths of tripartism and social dialogue. 28 April is also the International Commemoration Day for Dead and Injured Workers organized worldwide by the trade union movement since 1996.

New Parish Bulletin Notices

We have created some new parish bulletin notices so that you have a choice of messages. This will hopefully mean that people will stop and read the messages rather than get bored with the same one every week.

FILM/PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES

For the protection of all children and families in our parish, **written** consent should be obtained from children **and** their parents/guardians before photographs or videos are taken on parish premises. And no photos or videos should be shared online without their **written** permission. Even if you are friends with the family, please follow Parish Safeguarding requirements.



SAFEGUARDING YOUR CHILDREN

Would parents please keep their children **supervised at all times** in the church and surrounding grounds - including taking them to the bathroom. For their safety, please ensure you can always see them while on Parish grounds.



SAFEGUARDING IN THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office can be contacted if you have any Safeguarding concerns. We will listen to you respectfully, offer support, and discuss all options available. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au



SAFEGUARDING IN OUR PARISH

Safeguarding in our parish is a community responsibility. If you believe someone is being harmed please speak to your priest or the Safeguarding Office (02) 6621 9444. There are procedures in place to guide how best to help victims - whether children or adults at risk.



The Catholic Diocese of Lismore Safeguarding Office

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Updated Safeguarding Logo

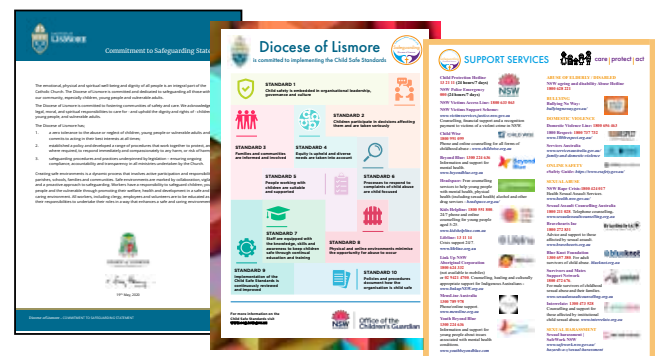
We have updated our Safeguarding logo to include **Adults at Risk** - the new area of compliance we need to cover. Please use this new logo in your bulletins. We will be updating posters etc with the new logo.



Display posters

To meet the basic Safeguarding requirements, please ensure you have these three posters on display in all offices, churches, halls and other Diocesan buildings:

1. The Bishop's Commitment to Safeguarding Statement
2. The Child Safe Standards
3. Support Services Information Poster



The Safeguarding Office is happy to supply posters upon request