

Safeguarding Newsletter



SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY

Here's what has happened in the last month and what's to come!

Welcome to the Safeguarding Newsletter for the months of August and September.

The Safeguarding Office recently attended the National Elder Abuse Conference for 2026.



Stand Up, Speak Out brought together professionals from the legal, health, aged care, community, financial, government and research sectors, alongside advocates and people with lived experience, to explore the issues shaping our collective response to elder abuse. Our office was thankful to attend and we gained valuable connections with external Elder Abuse support services.

It was lovely for the Safeguarding office to be part of the recent Secretary Conference held at the Francis Retreat in Bonny Hills. Please feel free to make contact with the office if you have any follow up questions from the retreat, very happy to support your parishes and ministries with safeguarding support.

NAPCAN National Child Protection Week is approaching please read on for resources and supports that may be of assistance.

Safeguarding team.



Office of the
Children's Guardian

In this newsletter you can expect:

Sector News

Support Services
& Awareness

Professional
Learning
Opportunities

Safeguarding
Office Contacts



Sector – Latest News



Australia's Catholic bishops have urged a renewed focus on ways to make Australia a more cohesive society.

Scan the QR code to read the Social Justice Statement



Helping others to respond

Each and every one of us can uphold the rights of older Australians to live independent, autonomous lives that are free from abuse, mistreatment or neglect.

– By [Compass](#)

Call 1800 ELDERHelp (1800 353 374)

Sector – Latest News



Office of the
Children's Guardian

Private health facilities soon to come under the Child Safe Scheme

From 1 October 2026, private health facilities in NSW will be included in the Reportable Conduct Scheme and the Child Safe Scheme.

This change strengthens safeguards for children in private healthcare settings.



It will affect any health facility that is required to be licensed by NSW Health under the *Private Health Facilities Act 2007*.

Our website provides information private health facilities need to prepare, including free webinars running in August.

[Find out more and register for a webinar](#)



From 1 October 2026, private health facilities in NSW will be included in the Reportable Conduct Scheme (RCS), and the Child Safe Scheme (CSS).

This change strengthens safeguards for children in private healthcare settings by:

- introducing oversight of reportable allegations
- supporting consistent child-safe practices across sectors
- ensuring employers respond appropriately to concerns about staff conduct towards children.



What does it mean to be human in an age when machines can think, create, and simulate? As artificial intelligence reshapes the way we work, communicate, and even pray, this question is no longer merely philosophical - it is urgent, personal, and inescapable. In a recent webinar, Bishop Paul Tighe and Father James Hanvey SJ spoke about technology, faith, and what it means to remain fully human in a changing world in light of Pope Leo's encyclical.



Support Services & Awareness

6-12 September

NAPCAN

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT



Share how you are taking action



This NCPW, we're calling individuals, organisations, and communities across the country to step up and take action to prevent child abuse and neglect. We recognise and celebrate the important work already underway to keep young people safe – and now we want to hear from you!

Whether your efforts are big or small, at home or in your organisation, your actions matter.



NAPCAN
www.napcan.org.au

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK
6-12 September 2026
Funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services



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Scan the QR Code
pledge your action



Connecting to National Catholic Safeguarding - **Standard Three**
Partnering with families carers and communities

Families, carers and communities are informed and involved in promoting the safeguarding of children and adults

Support Services & Awareness

Safeguarding Sunday 2026

Safeguarding Sunday will be marked on September 13. This annual observance is a time for Catholic communities across Australia to reflect on their commitment to creating safe, welcoming and inclusive environments for all.

PRAYER FOR SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

You guard us, Lord God, beneath the shelter of your wings
till the storms of destruction pass by (Psalm 57:1).

The storms of abuse have struck and have not yet passed by.

We see the damage done and we seek shelter in you.

Beneath your wings we gather the survivors and their loved ones,
all the victims, living and dead.

We gather those who work to bring healing
and to make the Church a safe place for all.

We gather all the faithful, the Body of Christ,
bearing the wounds of the Cross.

May the Church grow more like you,
wings spread wide to provide shelter for all,
till the storms of destruction pass by
and peace without end has come.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Archbishop Mark Coleridge.

Catholic Australia Safeguarding Sunday Resources 2025



Professional Learning Opportunities



Ballina workshop

Ballina workshop series

Ballina Byron Islander Resort

To register scan the QR Codes below

Workshop 1 (in person):

Wednesday 9 September 2026

9.30am – 4.00pm

Workshop 2 (in person):

Thursday 10 September 2026

9.30am – 4.00pm



Who's missing? PLANNING FOR DIVERSITY



Free training to support you in meeting your reporting requirements under the new Aged Care Act.

Do you know the 13 diversity groups?

Meet your reporting requirements under the new Aged Care Act. Free training for Australian aged care providers to better plan, deliver and report on what you have implemented to support a diverse and inclusive environment for older people and your aged care workers.

Training is tailored for Quality Managers and the person responsible for quality improvement, compliance or service planning. Spots are limited and will fill fast



Annual Clergy Training

To commence September 2026

Annually the Diocese of Lismore Clergy all attend a Safeguarding education session. This years topic was a recommendation of the 2025 Safeguarding Audit report the topic for 2026 is,

RE - ENGAGING SAFELY IN MINISTRY & RESPONDING TO ELDER ABUSE

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Thank you for reading!