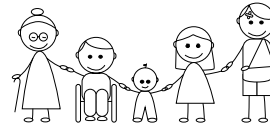


SAFEGUARDING NEWS



DECEMBER 2023

care | protect | act



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



Our Team



Julie Patston,
Safeguarding
Manager



**Christine
Thompson,**
Training and
Compliance Officer
(Mon-Thu)



Michelle Davies,
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(Mon&Fri)

6621 9444

From the Safeguarding Team

Happy New Year to you all!

We encourage everyone to mark January as a Safeguarding re-set. Check over all of your notices/boards or information areas and ensure everything on display is presentable, up to date, and in good condition.

If you need new versions of posters, or require more resources from the Safeguarding office, please don't hesitate to ask.

Please take down anything that is out of date. It is important to ensure what supports you are putting up are also being monitored and rotated, as eyes are caught by things that are new, fresh and have been changed on a regular basis.

January's theme is *Safeguarding Refresh* which has us focussing on all the latest updates and information in Safeguarding. See Page 4 for more information.

Christine and Michelle continue to work on Policy updates and a new Volunteer Induction Pack which should make it much easier for parishes to provide all the correct policies and information to all volunteers.

The new training presentation is also nearing completion.

We will also be sending out the resources for our February theme which will be eSafety (below).



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

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.

Port Macquarie: Feb 22-23

Goonellabah: Feb 29 - March 1.

Bellingen: March 5-6

See Word doc for link to REGISTER

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





Dates for the Diary

JANUARY

Month Theme: SAFEGUARDING REFRESH

See Page 4

21: World Religion Day

<https://nationaltoday.com/world-religion-day/>

26: Australia Day

28: International Data Privacy Day (iapp.org)

(Privacy Awareness Week run in Australia in May)

21: World Religion Day

World Religion Day is celebrated on the third Sunday in January every year, and is a reminder of the need for harmony and understanding between religions and faith systems.



On this day, communities of different faiths have the opportunity to get together and listen to each other, as well as celebrate the differences and commonalities that the delicate intermingling of culture and religion brings. There are approximately 4,200 religions around the world. While many people live their lives without religion, faith in a higher being or power works for the majority of people.

28: International Data Privacy Day

iapp.org/connect/data-privacy-day/

The purpose of Data Privacy Day is to raise awareness and promote privacy and data protection best practices.

Data Privacy Day's educational initiative originally focused on raising awareness among businesses as well as users about the importance of protecting the privacy of their personal information online, particularly in the context of social networking. The educational focus has expanded over the years to include families, consumers and businesses.

DATA PRIVACY DAY

ways to celebrate

Change Your Passwords

It's a good idea to change our passwords regularly. Update your passwords and encourage your friends and colleagues to do the same.

Update Privacy Settings

Personal data is very valuable. Check the privacy setting on your devices and apps to make sure you are not sharing more information than you want to.

Educate Yourself

Data Privacy is a growing area of concern for individuals and businesses. You should know what laws are enforced in your area.

End-of-Use Protocol

When a device reaches its end-of-use, how do you deal with it? Before you sell, donate or dispose of your devices, make sure your data has been securely removed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - FEBRUARY

Month Theme: ESAFETY

See Page 4

First Week: World Interfaith Harmony Week

worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com

6: International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

www.un.org/en/observances/female-genital-mutilation-day

6 (2024): Safer Internet Day (See Page 4)

www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/whats-on/safer-internet-day

11: World Day of Prayer for the Sick

Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes

Pope's Message: www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick.html

13: Apology to the Stolen Generation by the Aus Government (2008)

www.aph.gov.au/Visit_Parliament/Art/Icons/Apology_to_Australias_Indigenous_Peoples

13-19 Random Acts of Kindness Week

17: Random Acts of Kindness Day

www.randomactsofkindness.org

20: World Day of Social Justice

World Day of Social Justice | United Nations

www.un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day

First Week: World Interfaith Harmony Week

<https://worldinterfaithharmonyweek.com/>

Recognizing the imperative need for dialogue among different faiths and religions to enhance mutual understanding, harmony and cooperation among people, the General Assembly encourages all States to spread the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, on a voluntary basis and according to their own religious traditions or convictions.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - FEBRUARY

6: International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

www.un.org/en/observances/female-genital-mutilation-day

2023 Theme: Partnership with Men and Boys to transform Social and gender Norms to End FGM



Female genital mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures that involve altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons and is recognized internationally as a violation of the human rights, the health and the integrity of girls and women.

Girls who undergo female genital mutilation face short-term complications such as severe pain, shock, excessive bleeding, infections, and difficulty in passing urine, as well as long-term consequences for their sexual and reproductive health and mental health.

Although primarily concentrated in 30 countries in Africa and the Middle East, female genital mutilation is a universal problem and is also practiced in some countries in Asia and Latin America. Female genital mutilation continues to persist amongst immigrant populations living in Western Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand.

6: Safer Internet Day See theme page- Page 5

11: World Day of Prayer for the Sick, Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes

Pope's Message: www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick.html

The World Day of Prayer for the Sick was initiated by St John Paul II in 1992. It coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.



People around the world take the time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day. Faith organizations mark this day especially to provide the sick with medicines, food, and spiritual guidance.

The primary objectives of World Day of the Sick include:

- Promoting Compassion.
- Recognizing Caregivers.
- Highlighting Healthcare Challenges.
- Encouraging Prayer and Reflection.

Did You Know?

Pope Benedict XVI declared his decision to resign from his post as the Pope on this day in 2013. He cited his failing health as the reason behind his decision.

13: Apology to the Stolen Generation by the Australian Government (2008)

www.aph.gov.au/Visit_Parliament/Art/Icons/Apology_to_Australias_Indigenous_Peoples

On 13 February 2008, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd offered a formal apology to Australia's Indigenous peoples, particularly the Stolen Generations, on behalf of the nation at Australian Parliament House.

The Apology was presented as a motion for voting to the Chamber. It acknowledged that 'the laws and policies of successive Parliaments and governments had resulted in the forcible removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families and 'inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians'.

National Sorry Day held on May 26 each year. This day gives people the chance to come together and share the steps towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities.

13-19 Random Acts of Kindness Week

17: Random Acts of Kindness Day

www.randomactsofkindness.org

The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation (RAK) was founded in 1995 in the US. Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) day began in 2004 in New Zealand

Random Acts of Kindness Week started in 1995 by the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, as a way to celebrate the small things we do that can really make a difference. It's just a day to celebrate kindness and the whole pay it forward mentality, there are so many things we can do to make the world a kinder place!

Built on the action plan of "Inspire → Empower → Act → Reflect → Share", the mission statement of the foundation reads, "The work to create a kinder world never ends. #MakeKindnessTheNorm".

20: World Day of Social Justice

World Day of Social Justice | United Nations

www.un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day

Poverty and inequalities within and among countries are on the rise in many parts of the world. The economic and social crises of recent years have been exacerbated by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters, geopolitical tensions and armed conflicts.

These crises have highlighted the interlinkages and dependencies of economies and societies around the world and shown the crucial need for concerted action to respond to them, at global, regional and national levels.

World Social Justice Day provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of collaboration and collective action. It calls on individuals, communities, and governments to work together to address systemic issues and create a more equitable and inclusive society. By overcoming barriers and unleashing opportunities for social justice, we can create a brighter future for all people.



Why theme months?

As Adults at Risk are now a part of the Safeguarding requirements, we have created the theme months to provide you with resources and ideas to help you support Children and Adults at risk in your communities, and meet the auditing requirements.

By hanging posters, including information in your bulletin and providing resources to your parishioners, you are keeping your parishioners informed and supported, - and it goes a long way in helping to prove compliance.

Hopefully this will make it easier for you all. Feel free to send any helpful suggestions.

SAFEGUARDING THEMES

January:

SAFEGUARDING RESET

Checklist of questions:


- ✓ Do we have the three required posters (Bishop’s Message, Child Safe Standard, Support Services) on display in every church and parish building?
- ✓ Do we hold Safeguarding records on all our parish volunteers? (Completed Application Form, Working With Children and National Police History check information, Training information)
- ✓ Have all the Parish Volunteers had **Safeguarding Awareness** training.
- ✓ Have all volunteers who require Working with Children Checks had their **Mandatory Reporting and Reportable Conduct** Training?
- ✓ Have I validated all the Working With Children Checks with the Office of the Children’s Guardian?
- ✓ Do we have an area to display Safeguarding information in our churches and buildings?
- ✓ Does our parish bulletin include Safeguarding information?
- ✓ Is Safeguarding part of the ethos of our parish community?
- ✓ Am I now including Adults at Risk in my Safeguarding information?
- ✓ Do we encourage children to have a say in our Parish? What can we do to make them feel they are heard?

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

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 to you. Contact the Safeguarding Office - Phone: (02) 6621 9444 or Email: safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au



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



“We all have the duty to do good” - Pope Francis

The Safeguarding Office is happy to supply posters upon request

Safeguarding Theme

February: **ESAFETY**

We use the internet in almost every aspect of our lives, so it's important for everyone to know about online safety.

Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity for workplaces, community organisations, schools, industry, government and families to promote online safety education and the benefits of being safe online.

Our goal is for everyone to be informed about online safety, understand how to report online abuse and actively contribute to a safer online environment – that's why we need your support.

This Safer Internet Day we're encouraging you to take

three simple actions when approaching online safety: Connect. Reflect. Protect.

Connect safely by keeping apps and devices secure and reviewing your privacy settings regularly.

Reflect on how your actions online may affect others or your safety.

Protect yourself and others by visiting eSafety.gov.au to find out how to stay safe online and report online abuse.

By doing these things and sharing the Connect. Reflect. Protect message, we can work towards making every day a Safer Internet Day.

Why it's important to **Connect. Reflect. Protect.** this Safer Internet Day



Almost half

of children aged 8-17 were treated in a **hurtful or nasty way online**¹

Of these children

55%

said they had **felt sadness**, 43% had felt **anger**, and 17% said their **mental health** had been affected¹

62%

of children were **exposed to potentially harmful online content** (graphic violence, hate messages and ways to self-harm)¹

75%

of teens aged 16-18 had **encountered online porn**, with 13 being the average age of their first encounter²

68%

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have been treated in a **hurtful or nasty way online**³

29%

of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children **experienced online hate speech** – almost triple the national average³

75%

of adults had at least one **negative online experience**⁴

1 in 6

adults had **done something negative** online to others⁴

Fewer than

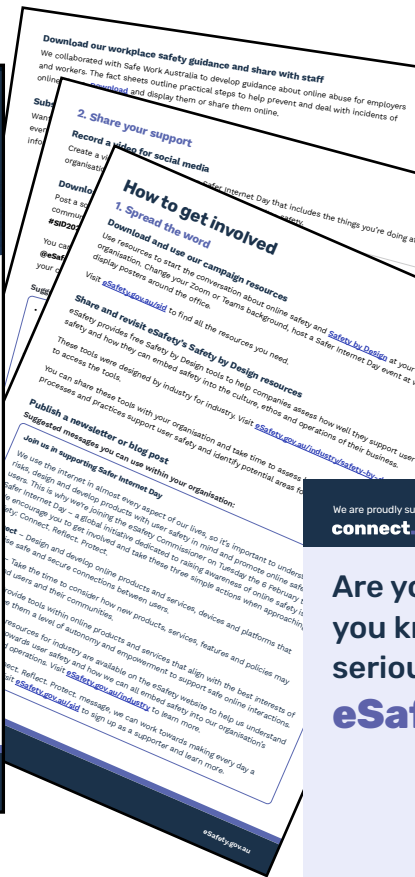
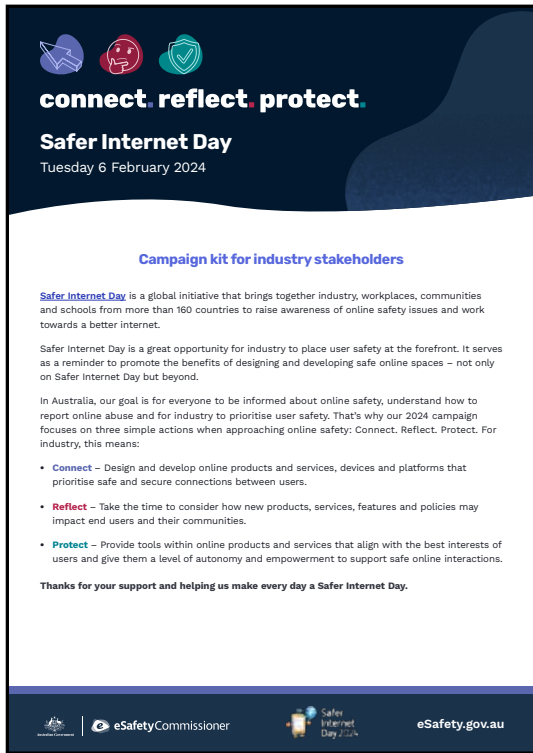
1 in 3

adults knew what to do when personal information or images were **shared without consent**⁵

References: 1. Mind the Gap: Parental awareness of children's exposure to risks online (2022); In the 12 months prior to the survey (2021). 2. Accidental, unsolicited and in your face. Young people's encounters with online pornography: a matter of platform responsibility, education and choice (2023). 3. Cool, beautiful, strange and scary: The online experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their parents and caregivers (2023). 4. Adults' experiences online – infographic (2022); In the past 12 months. 5. Negative online behaviours – infographic (2022).

ESAFETY WEBSITE RESOURCES YOU CAN DOWNLOAD

4-page guide - pdf



Posters



eSafety Resources from the Safeguarding Office to provide for parishioners

These are some of the resources we have collected from the eSafety Commissioner for the parishes. They will be posted or delivered to the parish office.

Posters:

1. Want help managing screen time?
2. Ask for help
3. Be safe
4. Be kind
5. Make good Choices
6. Is your child being Cyberbullied
7. Rewrite your Story - Youth poster set

Booklets:

1. Early Years Booklet
2. Online safety for grandparents and carers
3. Online Safety: A guide for parents and carers

Children's picture book:

Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5

Wallet Cards:

1. eSafety Women - Fold out card
2. eSafety Women - Keep safe remember card





SAFEGUARDING NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024



care | protect | act

What's on the eSafety website?
www.esafety.gov.au



Get the latest online safety advice to your inbox

[SIGN UP NOW](#)

Our latest news and releases

Blogposts

[MORE POSTS](#)

INDUSTRY

The Global Online Safety Regulators Network: An inaugural year of growth, building trust, and collaboration

In the transformative digital landscape of 2023, we sought to achieve unity and leadership across the domain of online safety regulation.

EDUCATION

The future of health and wellbeing: AI, the metaverse, and beyond

Welcome to a world where the lines between science fiction and reality blur. A world where AI integrates with the metaverse.

INDUSTRY

Tech companies must do more and do better if we are to stem the tide of online child sexual exploitation and abuse

It might be difficult for most of us to confront, but the world is facing an unprecedented explosion in online child sexual exploitation and abuse.

CYBERBULLYING **PARENTS**

Protecting our (increasingly younger) children from cyberbullying

eSafety is urging parents and caregivers to learn about cyberbullying and take on advice as kids head back to school in Term 3.

Media releases

[MORE RELEASES](#)

INDUSTRY

Report reveals the extent of deep cuts to safety staff and gaps in Twitter/X's measures to tackle online hate

In a new transparency report, X Corp., the owner of social media platform Twitter/X, indicates the company has made deep cuts to safety and public policy personnel.

INDUSTRY

eSafety initiates civil penalty proceedings against X Corp.

eSafety has commenced civil penalty proceedings against X Corp. for allegedly failing to comply with a non-periodic reporting notice.

INDUSTRY

Statement on end-to-end encryption and draft industry standards

eSafety is seeking feedback on draft industry standards for Designated Internet Services and Relevant Electronic Services.

INDUSTRY

Significant online safety milestone reached as Australia's world-leading industry codes commence

New industry codes requiring tech companies to take action to tackle the 'worst-of-the-worst' online content come into force.

Research

[MORE](#)

The metaverse: A snapshot of experiences in virtual reality

A small but significant number of adults in Australia are engaging in the metaverse with many of those using haptic technologies to enhance their experience.

A new playground: The digital lives of young people with disability

For many young people with disability, the internet forms a virtual playground, one in which they can play games with others, have fun and hang out with friends. However, the digital environment is not without risk.

Find out what we can do

Has someone made you feel threatened, intimidated, harassed or humiliated online?

Has someone used digital technology to menace, harass or offend you?

Has someone shared an intimate image or video of you online?

Have you seen online content that shows child sexual abuse, terrorism or extreme violence?

Learn about online harm

Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is when someone uses the internet to be mean to a child or young person so they feel bad or upset.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Adult cyber abuse

Adult cyber abuse is when the internet is used to send, post or share content that is harmful to the physical or mental health of someone who is 18 or older.

[READ MORE](#)

Image-based abuse

Image-based abuse is sharing, or threatening to share, an intimate image or video of a person without their consent.

[FIND OUT HOW](#)

Illegal and restricted online content

Illegal and restricted content includes material that shows or encourages child sexual abuse, terrorism or other extreme violence.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Helpful information

The eSafety Guide

Learn about the latest games, apps and social media, including how to protect your information and report harmful content.

[→](#)

Community education and training

Access a range of online safety presentations and resources provided free of charge.

[→](#)

Webinars for parents and carers

Join one of our free webinars for parents and carers to learn the latest strategies for helping children stay safer online.

[→](#)

Tech trends and challenges

Keep up-to-date with these overviews of emerging online safety issues.

[→](#)

Quick links

- [Online dating](#)
- [Child grooming](#)
- [Doxing](#)
- [Sending nudes](#)
- [Trolling](#)
- [Generative AI](#)
- [Deepfakes](#)
- [Catfishing](#)
- [Glossary](#)
- [Help in other languages](#)
- [Sextortion](#)
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- [Basic Online Safety Expectations](#)
- [Teacher Professional Learning](#)
- [Industry codes complaints](#)
- [Trusted eSafety Providers](#)



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