

Safeguarding Newsletter



SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES
RESPONSIBILITY

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

Welcome to the first
Safeguarding Newsletter for
2026.

We begin the year by reflecting
over the Safeguarding Office's
achievements of 2025 and the
goals our office has for 2026.

Throughout 2026 we will
continue to strive to be a source
of support to all parishes and
entities.

We invite you to reach out to the
office for any Safeguarding
support when required.

We ask that all Parishes
provide their past six months
Visiting Clergy Register
Please forward to the
Safeguarding Office if you
have not already done so.

Please ensure that in each
Church of your parish there is
a **Visiting Clergy Register**
available to be completed
when visiting Clergy are in
attendance.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

Sector News

Support Services
& Awareness

Professional
Learning
Opportunities

Safeguarding
Office Contacts

Sector Latest News

Early childhood news



About the training

From 27 February 2026, the following people involved in ECEC must complete mandatory national child safety training:

- persons with management or control
- nominated supervisors
- persons in day-to-day charge
- Family Day Care Educators
- other staff, volunteers and students.
-

Scan the QR
Code for more
information



The training is being developed by the Queensland Government and the Australian Centre for Child Protection. It will be available on **Gecko**.

Gecko is the Australian Government Department of Education's online learning platform for the ECEC sector. **Training is free.**

There will be Foundation and Advanced training modules. The Foundation training will be available from 27 February 2026. Advanced modules will be available in July 2026.



Have your say

**Review of the Working with
Children Check**



The Review will be open for community consultation from 26 November 2025 until 27 February 2026.

Scan the QR Code to complete
the WWCC Survey





Register now for mandatory national child safety training



From 27 February 2026 people involved in ECEC must complete mandatory national child safety training. This includes persons with management or control, nominated supervisors, persons in day-to-day charge, Family Day Care Educators and other staff, volunteers and students.



Register now!

learning.education.gov.au/register



Get Early Childhood Compliance Knowledge Online
www.education.gov.au/gecko

A national
Child Safety Reform
initiative

Support Services & Awareness

1800 ELDERHelp (1800 353 374)

compass
GUIDING ACTION ON ELDER ABUSE
an EAAA project

Am I safe and respected? quiz

This quiz will help you understand your personal situation by asking for your response to seven statements.

Answer "Agree" or "Disagree" depending on your circumstances and find out how you are going at the end.

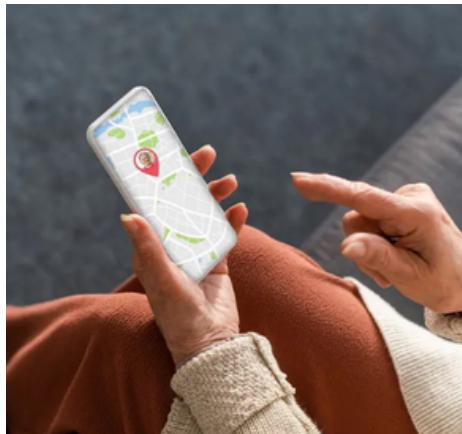
Answers are anonymous

[Take the quiz >](#)



Scan the QR Code
to take the QUIZ

Scan the QR
Code for the
FULL STORY



[Home](#) / [Featured Topics](#) / [Coercive Control](#) /

Support or surveillance? Tracking technologies and older people

The new tracking and monitoring technologies can support older people's safety and security, but they can also be used for control or privacy invasion.

5 min read

– By Compass

13 YARN

Scan the QR Code to
access 13 YARN



13 YARN

Resources About Us Contact us Order Donate If life is in danger call 000 Call 13YARN (13 92 76)

Episode Three: Men's Yarn - Unscripted: Men's Mental Health



Watch on  YouTube

**Going through a tough time?
We're here to yarn.**

If you, or someone you know, are feeling worried or no good, we encourage you to connect with 13YARN on 13 92 76 (24 hours/7 days) and talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter. This is your story; your journey and we will take the time to listen. No shame, no judgement, safe place to yarn. We're here for you.

13YARN is run by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

Free and confidential service available 24/7 from any mobile or pay phone

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporters to yarn to

Awareness

5 tips for a safer internet

Be kind: Show empathy, respect and kindness in every online interaction.



Balance time online: Make space for offline connection, rest and reflection.

Speak up: Report online abuse and harmful content to eSafety.



Protect your space: Use privacy settings, strong passwords or parental controls to keep your online space safe.

Start the conversation: Talk about online safety with your networks — family, friends, colleagues and communities.



Help make the internet a safer and more positive place this Safer Internet Day. Find resources at eSafety.gov.au

Safer Internet Day is coming!

10 February 2026



10th February

Scan the QR Code for resources



eSafety
Commissioner

eSafety.gov.au

make kindness the norm.

randomactsofkindness.org

17th February



7 WAYS TO HELP MAKE KINDNESS THE NORM®

- 1 Make a gratitude call to someone who has helped you
- 2 Support a local business
- 3 Pick up litter in your neighborhood
- 4 Offer to help someone without being asked
- 5 Donate your time or money to an organization you care about
- 6 Send a kind text to someone
- 7 Practice self-care

make
kindness
the norm.
randomactsofkindness.org

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS FOUNDATION

Professional Learning Opportunities



Australian Government



eSafetyCommissioner



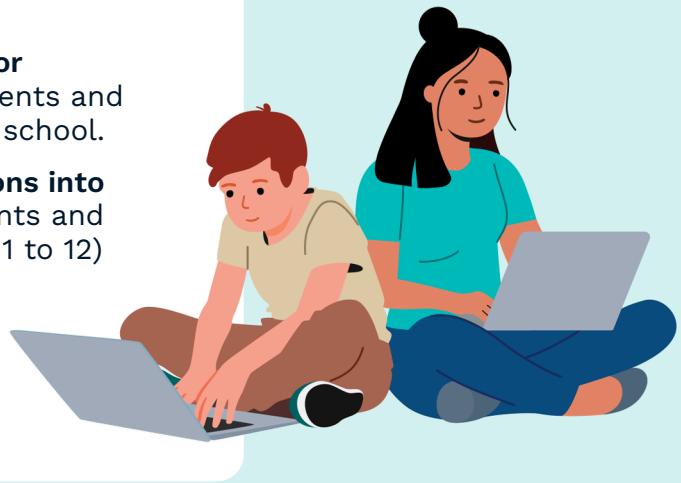
Term 1, 2026

eSafety parents and carers webinars

Join eSafety's free live webinars for parents and carers.

Term 1 topics:

- **Social media age restrictions explained – a guide for parents and carers (30 minutes).** Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school.
- **Supporting healthy tech use as your child transitions into secondary school (45 minutes).** Suitable for parents and carers of children in upper primary school (ages 11 to 12) and Year 7.
- **Understanding and using parental controls to help protect your child online (45 minutes).** Suitable for parents and carers of children in primary and secondary school.



For more information and to register now: [eSafety.gov.au/parents/webinars](https://esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars)



eSafetyCommissioner

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

Webinars for parents and carers

To register and or view scan the QR Codes below



Professional Learning Opportunities



Office of the
Children's Guardian

Online training coming soon

Our free Child Safe webinars continue in the new year from 20 January.

- Introduction to the Child Safe Standards
- Child Safe Reporting Obligations
- SAFE series protective-behaviours program
- Developing a Child Safe Code of Conduct
- Developing a Child Safe Risk Management Plan



To register and or
view scan the QR
Codes below



Diocesan Safeguarding Training

Contact the Safeguarding Office to schedule
your training sessions for 2026.

**Are your employees, church personnel, volunteers, & or
parishioners in need of safeguarding training or refresher training
(3 yearly)**

Express your interest with

Christine

at the Diocese

Safeguarding Office:

P: 02 6621 9444 (Chancery)

E: cthompson@lismore.catholic.org.au

**Safeguarding
Awareness**

**Mandatory Reporting
& Reportable Conduct**

**Integrity in Our
Common Mission**



Thank you for reading!



SAFEGUARDING OFFICE

02 6621 9444

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