

Safeguarding Newsletter



SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONES RESPONSIBILITY

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

Pope Leo XIV addressed the Plenary Assembly of the **Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors** on March 16th in Rome. To read Pope Leo XIV address follow the link over page in ‘Sector News’.

The conference brought together national leaders, practitioners, and young voices to drive meaningful change in how we protect children and young people.

Julie and Christine along with Safeguarding colleagues from DLCSL travelled to Sydney in March to attend the conference

Over the two days, 30 keynote speakers and panellists explored thought provoking sessions. The event was a call to action to strengthen systems, elevate youth voices and embed child safety as everyone’s responsibility. Be part of shaping safer futures for all children.

Safeguarding Children and Young People.
Embedding a child-safe mindset & collective responsibility across systems, policy & practice

In this newsletter you can expect:

Sector News

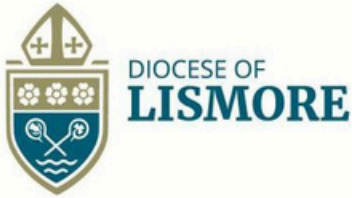
Support Services & Awareness

Professional Learning Opportunities

Safeguarding Office Contacts

Safeguarding team.





Memorandum

To: Clergy, Chancery, Parishes, Catholic Schools Office, St Vincent's Hospital, Aged Care

From: Rev Paul Gooley, Vicar for Safeguarding

Date: 19 March 2026

Subject: A Note From the Vicar,

Recently, Pope Leo addressed the Plenary assembly of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors and I would like to share two quotes from his address.

Pope Leo stated:

“let me reiterate that the protection of minors and persons in vulnerable situations is not an isolated area of ecclesial life, but a dimension that permeates pastoral care, formation, governance and discipline. Every step forward on this journey is a step towards Christ and towards a more evangelical and authentic Church”.

This statement emphasizes that we all have a role in protecting children and the vulnerable, each and every one of us, and that safeguarding must ‘permeate’ every part of who we are and what we do.

Pope Leo stated to the staff of the Commission who were there:

‘I... express gratitude to all of you.....for your service to the Church by protecting children, adolescents and persons in vulnerable situations. It is a demanding service, sometimes silent, often burdensome, but one which is essential for the life of the Church and for the building of an authentic culture of care’.

I too want to pass on my gratitude to all those who are involved in safeguarding in the Diocese especially Christine and Julie in our Safeguarding Office as it is a ‘demanding service’ and we need to be grateful for who you are and for all that you do. Thank you.

God bless

Fr Paul, Vicar for Safeguarding

Sector - Latest News

16 March 2026

Safeguarding at the heart of the Church's mission



**TUTELA
MINORUM**

PONTIFICAL COMMISSION FOR THE
PROTECTION OF MINORS



Pope Leo XIV opens Commission plenary with call to deepen safeguarding culture

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV on Monday opened the Plenary Assembly of the Commission, encouraging its members to continue strengthening a culture of safeguarding across the life of the Church. Receiving the Commission in audience...

 Tutela Minorum /

Scan the QR Code for
more information



National Child Protection Week
6-12 September 2026



Scan the QR Code for
more information



2026 Theme

EVERY CONVERSATION MATTERS
SHIFTING CONVERSATION TO ACTION



Sector - Latest News



Office of the
Children's Guardian



Rachael Ward appointed Children's Guardian

Rachael has been appointed as the Children's Guardian for NSW for a term of 5 years, taking this appointment up on the 4th of February 2026.

Rachael Ward
Children's Guardian

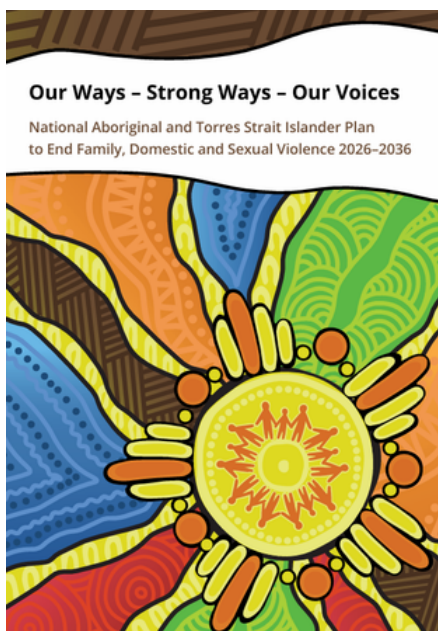
Bianca Dufty takes up position of Deputy Children's Guardian

Bianca is a long-time advocate for Aboriginal children and families; Bianca began her role as Deputy Children's Guardian in NSW on the 9th of February.



Bianca Dufty
Deputy
Children's Guardian

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more information



Our Ways - Strong Ways - Our Voices

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan
to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2026-2036

Scan the QR Code
for more
information



Urgent request for donations to furnish our Aboriginal Women's DV refuge

We are now urgently seeking donations of brand new furniture, whitegoods, linen, toys, and Indigenous items to create a culturally safe, welcoming space for women and children escaping violence.

Contact Women Up
North via their website



Support Services & Awareness

Scan the QR Code for more information and to view **YOUTH WEEK** video



16 - 26 April
YOUTH WEEK



Scan the QR Code to access kids helpline



Kids Helpline is Australia's only free (even from a mobile), confidential 24/7 online and phone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.

Qualified counsellors at Kids Helpline are available anytime and for any reason.

Since 1991, Australia's kids and young people have been turning to our professional counsellors, no matter who they are or what they want to talk about.

Over this time, we have responded to **9 million contacts**. For some young people, connecting with Kids Helpline has been a life-saving experience, while for others it's about practical help and emotional support at the critical moment they need someone to listen.

meet Qwibbl (by Kids Helpline)

Level up your mental health with our free app.

Built by young people (like you) and backed by Kids Helpline counsellors (aka the real deal).

Qwibbl isn't your average wellbeing app. It's packed with quizzes, videos, and brain-hack tools to help you capture what's going on in your head (your 'qwibbl'), organise your everyday wellbeing quests, and power-up your mental health.




Scan the QR Code to check out the app





use your phone to fix your mental health!

kidshelpline.com.au/qwibbl






how are you
really?



currently
down a TikTok
rabbit hole
to distract
myself from my
feelings.



Kids Helpline's here to support you
kidshelpline.com.au | 1800 55 1800



kids helpline

anytime.anyreason.

Support Services & Awareness

April 2026 – Sexual Assault Awareness Month



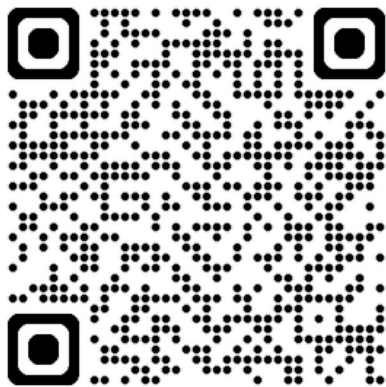
What is sexual violence?

Sexual violence is an umbrella term that includes any sexual behaviours or sexual acts that are committed against a person's will. Sexual violence can affect people of all genders throughout their lives and can be perpetrated by strangers or people who are known to the victim-survivor, including intimate partners. However, we know that women are significantly and consistently more at risk of sexual violence and that violence is nearly always perpetrated by men. **It is estimated that 23% of women and 8% of men have experienced at least 1 sexual assault since the age of 15[1].** Women are over three times more likely to have experienced sexual violence by a man they knew than by a male stranger. The effects of sexual assault can last a lifetime, extending out to family members, school and work, communities and down through generations

[1]Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2021, August 24). Sexual Violence – Victimization. ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/articles/sexual-violence-victimisation>

1800RESPECT

NATIONAL DOMESTIC FAMILY AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNSELLING SERVICE



Scan the QR Code to access support site

There's no excuse for domestic violence.

Call the NSW Domestic Violence Line on **1800 65 64 63** (free call)

We're here for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The NSW Domestic Violence Line can link you to supports in your local area. This can include:

- counselling
- emergency accommodation
- legal support services
- medical services

They can also give you information about how to obtain an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO).

Interpreters are available.
If you are hearing impaired: National Relay Service 133 677.
If you are in immediate danger, please call the Police on 000.

Professional Learning Opportunities



To register and or view
scan the QR Codes below



The 2026 Australian Elder Abuse Conference is a national gathering of people who care deeply about creating a safer, more just future for older Australians. It's a space where bold conversations are welcomed, living experiences are honoured and collaborative solutions are forged. This conference provides the platform for many voices to be heard. Together, we'll challenge harmful norms, explore new ideas, and push for real, lasting change. Over three dynamic days, delegates will connect across sectors, share knowledge and confront the complex realities of abuse and ageism. From powerful stories to innovative responses, our agenda is shaped by those at the forefront doing the work, and those with lived and living experience. This is a call to action. To listen. To stand up. To speak out. Not just for today, but for the generations to come.



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)

Safeguarding Awareness

Mandatory Reporting & Reportable Conduct

Integrity in Our Common Mission

Thank you for reading!

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