

Quarterly Newsletter

May 2019



Welcome to our Quarterly Newsletter

The last 3 months have passed quickly for the Safeguarding Team, can't believe it is already May! We have been busy working on big initiatives we plan to release in the coming months. Karen and Anna have been busy with the Introduction of Module Safeguarding Training for Priests and Clergy as well as the delivery of other Safeguarding Training packages. Anna has been busy developing resources to assist Parishes and Agencies in the Archdiocese. Rebecca has been assisting Parishes with the 2018 Parish Self Assessment as well as providing other safeguarding compliance support. Monique has been providing her usual amazing support to keep the team functioning at peak performance!

Pope Francis New Laws Mandating the Reporting of Sexual Abuse

Pope Francis has issued new global rules for reporting sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, mandating for the first time that all diocese set up systems for reporting abuse. The new rules require all Catholic Diocese around the world to have a 'public and accessible' system in place for reporting abuse by 1 June 2020.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has welcomed Pope Francis' new document on the investigation and reporting of abuse within Church settings. *"The release of this document less than three months after the meeting shows that, for Pope Francis, the updating of universal Church law on the investigation and reporting of abuse against children and other vulnerable people is a real priority. It's a priority the Australian bishops share. Now all bishops conferences and religious congregations around the world will have to meet more rigorous standards. That's a good thing."* Archbishop Coleridge said.



Code of Conduct for Young People (CCYP)

The Safeguarding Team and Sydney Catholic Youth are excited to announce a new initiative that we want you and your Youth Ministry Group to get involved in. The Archdiocese would greatly appreciate your help to create of a Code of Conduct for Young People (the CCYP).

What could possibly be better than empowering our very own Catholic Youth to help make decisions that affect them? Together with the Youth Group Leaders, your young people can help to make their own rules and regulations when attending a Youth Ministry Group within the Archdiocese of Sydney.

The Safeguarding Office has developed a resource pack to help aid discussion and assist in developing the CCYP. If you have a Youth Ministry Group in your Parish and would like to be part of this journey, please contact Anna Sammut on 9390 5811 or email anna.sammut@sydneycatholic.org to organise a CCYP Activity pack to be sent to you.

Submission of the CCYP are due back by 30th June 2019. So, what are you waiting for? Catholic Youth need a voice so let's get this Code on the road!



10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

In February 2019, the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisation were endorsed by members of the Council of Australian Governments. The National Principles reflect the 10 Child Safe Standards recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The principles aim to provide a consistent approach to creating organisational cultures that foster child safety and wellbeing.



The Archdiocese of Sydney has already started to implement the 10 National Principles. In doing this the Archdiocese of Sydney is demonstrating leadership and commitment to child safety and wellbeing.

Parish Bulletin Notice

We request that all Priests of our Parishes display this permanent safeguarding notice in future parish bulletins.

A message from the Archdiocese of Sydney

Child sexual abuse is a crime. The appropriate people to deal with crimes are the police. If you, or anyone you know, have been abused, please contact the police. Alternatively, you can contact the Safeguarding and Ministerial Integrity Office at (02) 9390 5810 or safeguardingenquiries@sydneycatholic.org. You may also want to speak to your Parish Priest who will be able to provide support and guidance. The Archdiocese has a legal obligation to report crimes to the police.

THE PSSO EXCHANGE



We hope you had a wonderful Easter celebration with family and friends. The next few months are going to be busy for the Safeguarding Office, especially with the development of our 2019 Safeguarding Initiatives. We have also been busy developing new training for PSSO's and resources that you can use in your Parish. Make sure you keep your eyes peeled for further information about our 2019 Initiatives.

Introducing... Fr Hamilton Ureta, Parish Priest of Our Lady of Fatima Kingsgrove

"The sexual abuse committed against children in the past is sad and disappointing and has deeply wounded the Catholic Church. It is important now to move forward, learn from past mistakes and to pray that this dark episode in our history won't happen again. The Priest has to make sure that the Parish is a safe and welcoming place for everyone who comes, especially the children.

As Parish Priest with an active parish community and a primary school, life is busy and demanding and so having a Parish Safeguarding Support Officer (PSSO) in the parish is a huge relief.

Indeed, they are a big help. Working together with the PSSO, the parish can ensure that all standard procedures and policies for working with children are in place, that everyone who works in the parish, (including volunteers involved in any kind of ministry or organization that deal with children) has a WWCC and that children, young people, parents and carers are informed of their rights and responsibilities.

I am pleased for the work being done in the Archdiocese of Sydney to address the issue of safeguarding children and providing guidance and support to the parish and its members."



Introducing... Gayle Anderson PSSO for St John Bosco Engadine

"Hello, my name is Gayle Anderson and I am one of the PSSOs in our Parish of St John Bosco Engadine, and for me it's a real privilege to be involved in this ministry. Two years ago we developed a Vision Statement to focus and guide the Safeguarding pathway for our parish community:to ensure that the young and the vulnerable are welcomed cherished and protected to worship and grow in Christ.



Children are a delight in our families and in our communities, and have a very important place in our parish. We celebrate and follow their growing faith through their sacramental journey; they are the life and focus of our schools; and their energies and initiatives play a vital role in many of our parish activities and ministries.

Our PSSO team strive to encourage all parishioners to pray for a deepening sense of community and aspiring to Our Lord's command: love one another as I have loved you (John 13:34-35), that is, to be a loving community, offering a welcoming environment in which people can flourish, and be safe from harm."

Role of the PSSO

The Safeguarding Office would like to acknowledge you all for the commitment you have made ensuring that your parish environment is safe for our children, young people and vulnerable adults.

As you are aware the role of the PSSO is to support and assist your Parish Priest in his Safeguarding responsibilities, to ensure the Archdiocese of Sydney Policies and Protocols are established and maintained to create safe environments in the parish. It has recently come to the attention of the Safeguarding Office that PSSO's in Parishes are being asked or getting involved in dealing with complaints. It is not the role of a PSSO to be dealing with any complaints; all complaints need to be referred to either the Parish Priest or the Safeguarding Office.

The Safeguarding Office has developed a position description specifically for PSSO that identifies the tasks that PSSO's have been trained and certified to perform. The position description can be found on the [Parish Intranet](#) under the PSSO heading.

PSSO Development Day

Just a friendly reminder to register for the annual PSSO Development Day! This year the Development Day will provide you with the skills and knowledge to help assist your Parish Priest to interview new volunteers who wish to volunteer in your Parish. As you all know, it's important that new volunteers undergo the Archdiocese Recruitment Process before they are able to volunteer in the Parish.

We are very much looking forward to this years training. To register for the PSSO Development Day simply follow this link <https://goo.gl/forms/RGVZpOSDV4Cxbfn12>

From your feedback we saw that you wanted a designated question time and will provide this at the end of each session going forward. We will be asking you to save any questions that you have for the end of the session. We invite you to start thinking of some questions that would assist your understanding in the PSSO role. It would be greatly appreciated if you could please send in your questions to anna.sammut@sydneycatholic.org prior to attending training.

Safeguarding Training 2019

New training packages have been developed for Parish and Agency staff, Youth Ministry Leaders, PSSO's and Clergy. Dates for 2019 Safeguarding and Child Protection Training can be viewed on the Archdiocese Website <https://www.sydneycatholic.org/safeguarding-and-child-protection/>

Please contact Anna Sammut on 9390 5811 or email safeguardingtraining@sydneycatholic.org to register your attendance.

"Life is a journey, along different roads, different paths, which leave their mark on us."- Pope Francis

