

# Quarterly Newsletter

November 2018



## Welcome to the last Quarterly Newsletter for 2019

The Safeguarding Team can't believe that we're almost at the end of another year - the third year since our inception in November 2015! What a busy and productive year 2018 has been! We've continued to introduce and improve preventative safeguarding strategies for our parishes and agencies as well as developing new "Online Induction and Youth Ministry Induction" training modules. We now have over 110 Parish Safeguarding Support Officers, we have introduced 'Listening to You' and 'Someone Will Listen to You' resources, we have supported many parishes and agencies in writing risk assessments and we have worked with you to complete the 2018 Self Assessment!

At the beginning of December we say goodbye and thank you to our much loved Safeguarding Officer Trish Larkin who is retiring. We wish her a retirement full of travel and fun! Rebecca King is back in our team until May 2019 to help fill Trish's boots!

## New & Noteworthy

### Who needs a Working With Children Check?

As you may be aware the Archdiocese's has recently extended the number of volunteer roles that require a WWCC. It is of the utmost importance that staff and volunteers in roles of responsibility and trust in our parishes are of sound character and are people we feel confident can be identified by our children and adults alike as trustworthy people within the Church. To assist the Priests of the Parish with any questions that may arise from these changes, the Safeguarding Office now have three documents available under the **WWCC folder under the Safeguarding Tab on the Parish Intranet** that should answer all of your WWCC queries:

- Fact Sheet "Who Needs a Working With Children Check"
- Guidelines "Working With Children Checks (WWCC)"
- Frequently Asked Questions Working With Children Checks (WWCC)"



## Safeguarding Compliance & Audit News

As mentioned, Trish Larkin will no longer be Safeguarding Officer, Support and Compliance. Rebecca King is stepping into the role temporarily until May 2019 so if you have any queries in relation to Self Assessments, Risk Assessments or general safeguarding support please contact Rebecca at either:

[rebecca.king@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:rebecca.king@sydneycatholic.org) or 02 9390 5813

### Self Assessments:

Many thanks to those parishes who have returned the 2018 Parish Safeguarding Self-Assessment. For those who haven't returned the Self-Assessment as yet, it is now due for completion and return. If you are having any problems filling it out or developing your Continuous Improvement Plans please get in touch with Rebecca King. Monique Smith will also be back in the team early in 2019 to assist you with your any of your compliance issues.

## Safeguarding Training News

Apologies if we've been taking a bit longer than usual to answer your training queries. Hopefully normal services will resume early in the new year.

There are now two new Online Training Modules for parish staff and volunteers to complete instead of attending face to face training sessions:

- *Safeguarding Induction Training for Parish Staff and Volunteers*
- *Youth Ministry Safeguarding Induction Training for Youth Ministry Volunteers*

All volunteers and staff in child-related roles or who require a WWCC need to complete Safeguarding Induction Training. To register for Online Induction Training please use the following link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/UJrDZzELjdF5JJgm1>

# THE PSSO EXCHANGE



The Safeguarding Office would like to say a **BIG** thank you for everything you do to ensure our communities are safe! A very merry and peaceful Christmas to you all. See you in 2019!!



## Safeguarding Resources

The Safeguarding Office has now developed a new "Resources" Tab on the Internet. The following resources are available for download:

- The Safeguarding Journey Poster
- Someone Will Listen to You Postcard
- Rights and Responsibilities Poster
- Rights and Responsibilities Postcard
- Listening to You Postcard

If you wish to order any of these resources please contact the Archdiocese Creativity, Identity and Design department on 9390 5300.

## Safeguarding Displays in our Parishes



St Anthony Parish, Clovelly



St Therese Parish, Mascot



Our Lady of Lourdes, Earlwood

## Introducing... Mary Farrell PSSO for Our Lady of Victories Horsley Park

*"I have been blessed to be the Pastoral Associate at Our Lady of Victories for the past 15 years and through this ministry have come to personally know many of the families in our community. I have been privileged to celebrate the sacraments with many of their children over the years and have always had the utmost concern for the safety of those entrusted to my care.*

*I am a mother and grandmother and I welcome the role of PSSO to further reinforce my fervent commitment to the emotional and physical wellbeing of those who are most at risk of abuse and exploitation – our children and vulnerable young adults – the future of our church and community. Christ showed the utmost love, care and concern for those who were at greatest risk of abuse and our baptismal call is to follow His teaching and example. The resources issued by the Safeguarding Office have helped in communicating to all our volunteers and ministers the need to be familiar with the Code of Conduct and the obligations and protocols in dealing with children and young adults and how we can all work together for the welfare of our young parishioners."*



## Introducing... Fr Kevin Bates, Parish Priest of Holy Name of Mary Hunters Hill

*"Here at Holy Name of Mary parish Hunters Hill, we have two parishioners who have generously undertaken the role of PSSO. They are becoming a real presence in the parish and are an essential part of raising the parishioners' consciousness around the issue of Child Protection. We meet together every two months to assess our progress, and as parish priest I value and am grateful for their commitment, wisdom and energy. They have a clear understanding of compliance requirements and are helping to drive our work in bringing the parish up to the levels of compliance that we need."*

