

# SAFEGUARDING NEWS



APRIL 2024

care | protect | act



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

## From the Safeguarding Team



### Our Team



**Julie Patston,**  
Safeguarding  
Manager



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Thompson,**  
Training and  
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(Mon-Thu)



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Australian Catholic Safeguarding standards 3.4.1 notes *“the entity promotes and/or participates in activities which raise awareness of abuse prevention and the rights and dignity of children and adults at risk”*

We strongly encourage all parishes and entities to be utilising the resources in this newsletter to promote within. We research and offer a broad range of awareness areas each month to offer assistance and support for your communities.

If you seek further resources on any of the subjects, please use the QR codes and websites provided. Or contact the safeguarding office and we may be able to assist with ordering or providing details of where you can source supports.

We have an updated logo above with the words **Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility**, please feel free to use it within the Diocese.

April's Safeguarding theme is **YOUTH** - to celebrate their contribution and also to focus on their issues. You can use some of your eSafety resources this month as well, as so many young people face issues online.

Our May Safeguarding theme is **Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Month**. It is a difficult subject, but one that has a huge impact on families, with issues often spanning many generations. It is only through education and speaking out, that this 'hidden' violence can be stopped - it is everyone's responsibility.

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

Remember - 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 CHILD SAFETY - OCG



Office of the  
Children's Guardian

**Coffs Harbour - Wed the 26th June**  
Child Safe Standards and  
Risk Management  
More details to come!

### 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.

**See Word doc for link**

### 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.

**See Word doc for link to REGISTER**

#### OPAN 'Talk to Us First'

A free, short education program 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

Improve your understanding and response to online challenges your child may face. Topics include:

- eSafety 101: How eSafety can help
- Online gaming
- Understanding parental controls
- Online safety and social media.

**See Word doc for link to REGISTER**



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



## Dates for the Diary

### April Month Theme: YOUTH

See Page 3

#### APRIL: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/family-domestic-and-sexual-violence/sexual-assault-in-australia/contents/summary>

#### 11-24 (2024) National Youth Week

[www.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/nsw-youth-week-2024](http://www.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/nsw-youth-week-2024)

#### 28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/media-centre/campaigns/2024-world-day>



#### APRIL: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

April is Sexual Assault Awareness month (SAAM), the goal of SAAM is to raise public awareness of the issue of sexual assault and educate our community on how we can all play a part in prevention.

This year, the theme is “*Task*”, which encourages everyone to put consent into practice.

Sexual assault is a major health and welfare issue in Australia and worldwide. For many victims, the effects can be wide-ranging and lifelong.

They can experience physical injuries, long-term mental health effects, and disruption to everyday activities such as eating and sleeping habits (ABS 2017; Cashmore & Shackel 2013; Hailes et al. 2019).

Between 2010 and 2018, rates of sexual assault victimisation recorded by police for Australians aged 15 and over rose by more than 30% (from 66.8 to 90.2 per 100,000) (based on ABS 2019). However, it is unclear whether this reflects an increased incidence of sexual assault, an increased propensity to report sexual assault to police or increased reporting of historical crimes. Rates for children aged 0–14 remained stable in the 5 years up to 2018 (based on ABS 2019).

In 2018–19, the majority of sexual assault offenders recorded by police were male (97%); males aged 15–19 had the highest offender rates (102.9 per 100,000) of any age group (based on ABS 2020a).



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - APRIL

Month Theme: **YOUTH**



**11-24 (2024) National Youth Week**  
[www.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/nsw-youth-week-2024](http://www.nsw.gov.au/arts-and-culture/nsw-youth-week-2024)

Youth Week began as a NSW Government initiative in 1989, and has since grown to be a celebration of young people in every state and territory across the country.

It is organised by young people, for young people, in communities across NSW and Australia. Following the success of the NSW Youth Week program, Youth Week became a national event in 2000. National Youth Week is jointly supported by the Australian government, state and territory governments and local governments.

In 2019, an estimated 73,900 young people participated in Youth Week activities which took place between 10-18 April 2019. Over 740 events of varying sizes and activities were held.

**28 World Day for Safety and Health at Work**  
[www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/media-centre/campaigns/2024-world-day](http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/media-centre/campaigns/2024-world-day)

Sunday 28 April 2024 is World Day for Safety and Health at Work (World Day) and Workers' Memorial Day. Latest data shows that in 2022, 195 workers in Australia were fatally injured at work. This concerning statistic amplifies the importance of increasing awareness around work health and safety to prevent work-related injuries and fatalities.

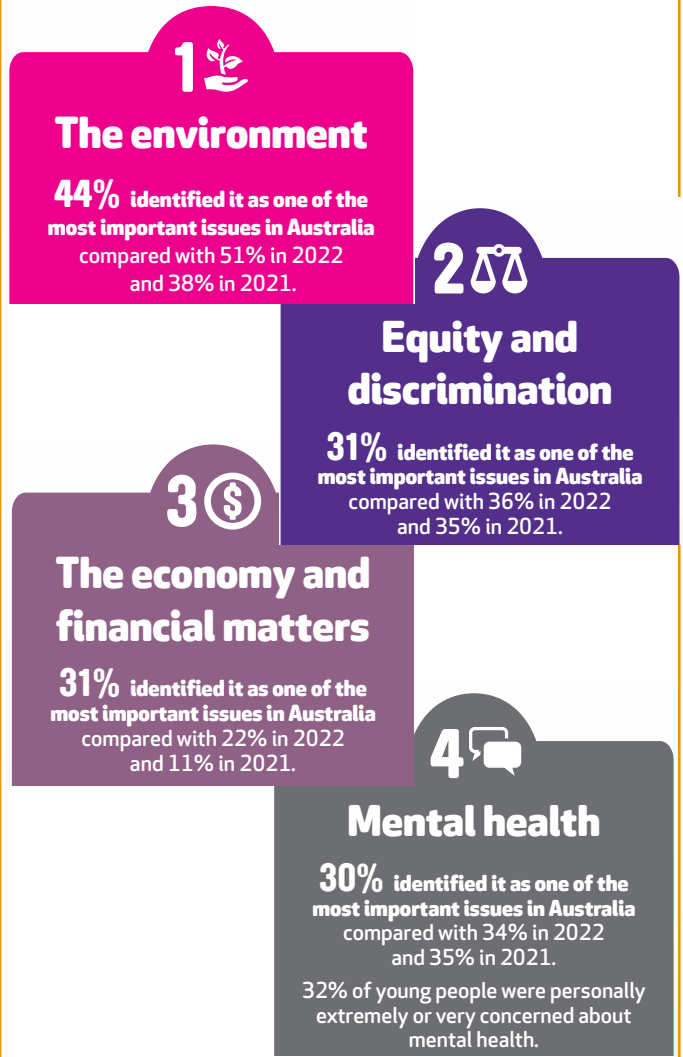


In 2024, the International Labour Organization's (ILO) World Day theme explores the 'impacts of climate change on occupational safety and health'. Accompanying World Day, the International Trade Union Confederation's (ITUC) theme for Workers' Memorial Day 2024 is 'climate risks for workers'.

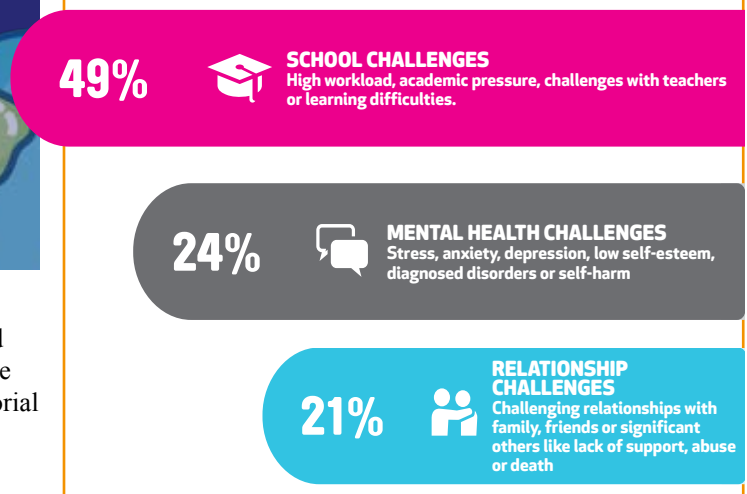
## Mission Australia 2023

### Youth Survey:

#### MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN AUSTRALIA FOR NSW YOUTH



#### THE BIGGEST PERSONAL CHALLENGES







## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - MAY

### May Month Theme: DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

See Page 6

#### MAY: Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Month

[www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/](http://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/)

[www.respect.gov.au/](http://www.respect.gov.au/)

#### 1st Wednesday (May 1, 2024): National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day

[www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/shining-a-light-on-lives-lost-due-to-domestic-and-family-violence](http://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/shining-a-light-on-lives-lost-due-to-domestic-and-family-violence)

#### 1st Thursday (May 2, 2024) World Password Day

[www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au/articles/what-makes-a-good-password](http://www.digitalcitizenship.nsw.edu.au/articles/what-makes-a-good-password)

#### 8: World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day

[www.ifrc.org/get-involved/campaign-us/world-red-cross-and-red-crescent-day](http://www.ifrc.org/get-involved/campaign-us/world-red-cross-and-red-crescent-day)

#### 10: Do it for Dolly Day

[www.dollysdream.org.au/](http://www.dollysdream.org.au/)

#### 15: International Day of Families

[www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-of-families](http://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-of-families)

#### 13-19: National Families Week

[nfw.org.au/about/](http://nfw.org.au/about/)

#### 16: International Day of Living Together in Peace

[www.un.org/en/observances/living-in-peace-day](http://www.un.org/en/observances/living-in-peace-day)

#### 20-26: National Volunteer Week

[www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nvw/](http://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/get-involved/nvw/)

#### 25-26: First World Children's Day

[www.worldchildrenday.org/](http://www.worldchildrenday.org/)

#### 26: National Sorry Day

[www.reconciliation.org.au/national-sorry-day-2020/](http://www.reconciliation.org.au/national-sorry-day-2020/)

#### 27- June 3: National Reconciliation Week

[www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/](http://www.reconciliation.org.au/our-work/)

[national-reconciliation-week/](http://national-reconciliation-week/)



#### 1st Wednesday (May 1, 2024):

#### National Domestic Violence Remembrance Day

As part of the Domestic Violence Prevention Month activities a special candle lighting ceremony is held each year to remember those who have died and the ones left behind due to domestic and family violence.

In 2022, there were 33,410 reports of domestic violence related assault and 11 murders of women and children in NSW alone.

Over the last 10 years, there have been a total of 207 murders of women and children in NSW.



#### 1st Thursday (May 2, 2024)

#### World Password Day

Each year on the first Thursday in May, World Password Day promotes better password habits. Passwords are critical gatekeepers to our digital identities, allowing us to access online shopping, dating, banking, social media, private work, and life communications.

In a cyber world, secure passwords are important. Other than keeping your information offline, long, unique and complex passwords protect your valuable information best. Another tactic is changing your passwords every few months or any time you think your accounts have been compromised.



#### 8: World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day



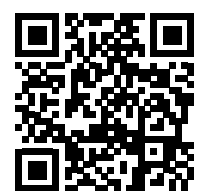
World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day is a time to celebrate the spirit of humanitarianism and recognize the individuals who make a difference in their communities.

We wanted to celebrate the people in our communities, “the person next door”, who often are the first ones to step up and support those in need around them. They could be someone at work; a neighbourhood business-owner; a Red Cross or Red Crescent community volunteer; someone at the gym, shop or market we go to; or someone living close by who has always been by our side.



#### 10: Do it for Dolly Day

On Friday 10 May 2024 we are calling on you to help make Dolly's own dream of a kinder and safer world for Australia's kids and communities a reality. Dolly's Dream is committed to changing the culture of bullying by addressing the impact of bullying, anxiety, depression and youth suicide, through education and direct support to young people and families.





## 15: International Day of Families

In 1993, the UN General Assembly decided in a resolution that 15 May of every year should be observed as The International Day of Families. This day provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.



## 25-26: First World Children's Day

World Children's Day, promoted by Pope Francis, is a moment dedicated to boys and girls aged between 5 and 12.

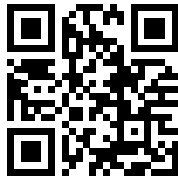
It will take place on 25 and 26 May in Rome and is organized by the Dicastery for Culture and Education, coordinated by Father Enzo Fortunato and Aldo Cagnoli, with the collaboration of the Community of Sant'Egidio and the Cooperativa Auxilium.

The initiative aims to place the condition of children at the centre, offering a space for reflection on their future and on the world we intend to deliver to them. It will include two distinct moments of celebration and prayer. Both initiatives will see the presence of the Holy Father and will take place in the Olympic Stadium and in St. Peter's Square.

The possibility of actively involving local communities in the organization of parallel events around the world, thus enriching the breadth of the initiative, will be the distinctive element of the entire initiative.



## 13-19: National Families Week



Each year, thousands of people and hundreds of organisations around the country come together for Australia's annual celebration of families National Families Week.

National Families Week is a time to celebrate with your family, connect with your extended family and friends, and share in the enjoyment of family activities within the wider community. No matter where you live – in our major cities or a remote community in the country – all Australians, including community organisations, schools, councils, companies and individuals are invited to participate in National Families Week each year.

The aim of National Families Week is to not only celebrate the vital role that families play in Australian society, but to also reflect on the critical role that families play in teaching, supporting and nurturing children as they grow.

## 20-26: National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week 2024 is *'Something for Everyone'*.

National Volunteer Week 2024 will recognise the diverse passions and talents everyone brings to the act of volunteering. It's an invitation to explore the myriad of opportunities available, emphasising that there's a place for everyone in the world of volunteering. Whether you're drawn to environmental causes, community outreach, education, or beyond, there's a place where your unique skills and interests can flourish.

Let's come together during National Volunteer Week, embracing this theme to showcase the vast spectrum of possibilities and the transformative impact that emerges when everyone finds their meaningful role in making a difference.



## 16: International Day of Living Together in Peace

Living together in peace is all about accepting differences and having the ability to listen to, recognize, respect and appreciate others, as well as living in a peaceful and united way. The Day invites countries to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure peace and sustainable development, including by working with communities, faith leaders and other relevant actors, through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals.



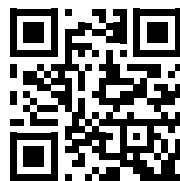
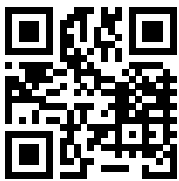
## 26: National Sorry Day



## 27- June 3: National Reconciliation Week



## MAY: Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Month



NSW Domestic Violence Line - †  
**1800 656 463**  
 1800 RESPECT - **1800 73 77 32**  
 Link2Home Homelessness - †**1800 152 152**  
 Link2Home Veterans and Ex-Service -  
**1800 326 989**  
 Child Protection Helpline - †**13 21 11**

During May, we recognise Domestic Violence Prevention Month, where we raise community awareness of the social and personal impact of domestic and family violence and the supports available to those affected.

Domestic and family violence as an issue has gained increasing media attention and public awareness. We continue to see accounts in the media which put a spotlight on the violence women still face in their day-to-day lives. We have also seen some national policy commitments responding to calls from people across Australia to take action.

While it is encouraging to see this critical and widespread problem start to emerge from the shadows, it is unacceptable that domestic and family violence remains at such high levels in Australia. The statistics are still alarming.

Domestic violence is still a leading cause of homelessness, particularly for women and children. The problem is so bad that 121,000 people who had experienced domestic and family violence sought help from specialist homelessness services last year.<sup>2</sup> While domestic and family violence can affect anyone, overwhelmingly, violence perpetrated by men against women is most common. This leaves women and children at great risk of homelessness.

We all agree that no one should be forced to stay in a violent home to keep a roof over their child's head. Yet, we know that there are thousands of families in Australia who are doing just that, or have been pushed into homelessness because their home is no longer a safe place to live.

Enough is enough.



FAMILY, DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN AUSTRALIA (AIHW)

2019

## Impacts of family, domestic and sexual violence

### Homelessness

IN 2017-2018, ABOUT **72,500** WOMEN

**41,600** CHILDREN

**6,900** MEN

sought specialist **HOMELESSNESS SERVICES** due to family or domestic violence.

(AIHW, 2019a)

### IPV Impact

Intimate partner violence is a **MAJOR HEALTH RISK FACTOR**

Child abuse and neglect during childhood

Illicit drug use

LEADING RISK FACTORS FOR WOMEN AGED 25-44

**PARTNER VIOLENCE**

for women aged 25-44.

(AIHW, 2019b)

### Hospitalisation

IN 2016-2017, ON AVERAGE

**12** WOMEN A DAY

WERE HOSPITALISED FOR ASSAULT INJURIES due to domestic and family violence

**1 IN 14** WOMEN hospitalised for physical assault BY A SPOUSE OR DOMESTIC PARTNER were pregnant

(AIHW, 2019c)

### Domestic homicide

**1 WOMAN WAS KILLED EVERY 9 DAYS** by a current or former partner in the 2 years from 2014-15 and 2015-16.

**ONE-QUARTER OF HOMICIDE INCIDENTS** are due to a current or former partner.

(National Homicide Monitoring Program in AIHW, 2019a)

### Children's experience of abuse

**1 IN 6** WOMEN were physically and/or sexually abused before the age of 15

**1 IN 9** MEN

(ABS, 2017 in AIHW, 2019b)

Women who, as children, witnessed partner violence against their parent

**WERE MORE THAN TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE** subjected to partner violence themselves, compared to women who had not.

(ABS, 2017 in AIHW, 2018)

### Experience & risk

Certain groups of people are more vulnerable to family, domestic and sexual violence, particularly:

- CHILDREN
- YOUNG WOMEN
- OLDER AUSTRALIANS
- PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- PEOPLE FROM CALD BACKGROUNDS
- LGBTIQ+ PEOPLE
- PEOPLE IN RURAL AND REMOTE AUSTRALIA
- SOCIOECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE

**Violence against women by a partner often BEGINS OR INCREASES DURING PERIODS OF SEPARATION.**

(AIHW, 2019a)

**ANROWS**  
AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

**REFERENCES:**  
 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2019a). Specialist homelessness services annual report 2017-18. Canberra: AIHW.  
 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2019b). Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: continuing the national story 2019. Canberra: AIHW.  
 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2018). Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia 2018. Canberra: AIHW.

**SUGGESTED CITATION:**  
 Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety. (2019). Impacts of family domestic and sexual violence (2nd ed.). Sydney, NSW: ANROWS.

## What you're experiencing is a form of family violence.

Family violence can include many behaviours, such as:

- Physical
- Emotional
- Psychological
- Sexual
- Financial

Or any behaviour that causes someone to fear for themselves or other family member's wellbeing.

Forms of Violence can occur to anyone despite their gender, age, race or sexual orientation.

If you're experiencing some form of violence or feel like you are using violence, this is not okay. Help is available for anyone.

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



## Renewing your WWCC



There are 2 ways to renew your Working with Children Check (WWCC), depending on how you choose to have your identification verified:

- **Online using face verification** – instead of going into a Service NSW Centre to present your identity documents, you renew online and use your device to scan your face. The scan is matched with the photo used on your NSW Driver Licence or NSW Photo Card.



- **At a Service NSW Centre** – you need to complete the Office of the Children’s Guardian (OCG) renewal application form, then visit a service centre within 28 days to present the original version of your identity documents and pay your fee if required.

Your WWCC expires after **5 years**. You’ll be notified by email 3 months before its expiry date. You can renew your WWCC from this time.

## Renew ONLINE using face verification

What you need:

- A MyServiceNSW Account with the ‘Working with Children Check’ service added:
- You can create an account when you start your application.
- You’ll need your mobile phone to receive an SMS code for 2-step authentication.
- Add the Working with Children Check service when you’re logged into your account.
- THREE current identity documents:
  - NSW Driver Licence or NSW Photo Card
  - one such as Australian passport, Australian birth certificate, foreign passport with an Australian visa
  - one such as Medicare card, Pensioner concession card, Seniors Health Card, Health Care Card
- A device with a working front camera to complete face verification
- A credit or debit card, PayPal or PayID (if payment is required).

## Renew at Service NSW

If you choose to have your identity documents verified at a service centre, you first need to complete the OCG renewal application form.

You’ll need:

- your WWCC number
- 4 identity documents.

## 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.

**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 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.

**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 video are taken at parish premises. And no photos or videos should be shared online without the consent of the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

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](mailto:safeguarding@lismore.catholic.org.au)

**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](mailto: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



The Safeguarding Office is happy to supply posters upon request

When you’ve completed the form, an application (APP) number will be emailed to you.

Then visit a service centre and take:

- The email that shows your APP number
- Your original identity documents
- Your payment, if applicable.

You have 28 days to visit a service centre. After 28 days the APP number will expire and you’ll need to apply again.