

A N G L I C A N D I O C E S E O F M E L B O U R N E



Safe Ministry

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 | AUGUST 2022

Welcome to the August Safe Ministry e-newsletter. We thank you for your time in perusing this newsletter.

Keeping children and young people safe is everyone's responsibility. Thanks for the part you play in ensuring children and young people are safe and thrive in our parishes and congregations.

We would love to hear from you - if you have a question, need information or have an idea for strengthening the safe church work we all do together, please connect. Our contact details are at the bottom of the page.

Rev'd Amy Brown with Bishop Genieve Blackwell have recently written this Safe Ministry prayer.

Dear God,
We are so sorry for the times our church
has hurt others and not been a safe place.
Please forgive us.
Please comfort and heal those people.
May your Spirit enable us to right wrongs, and
Help us to make and keep our churches safe.
Help us look after everyone,
including children and vulnerable people.
Please guide our leaders as they make decisions
that keep our ministries safe.
Help each one of us do our part
in making church a safe place for everyone.
In Jesus' name we pray,
Amen



Making the Word of God fully known

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News

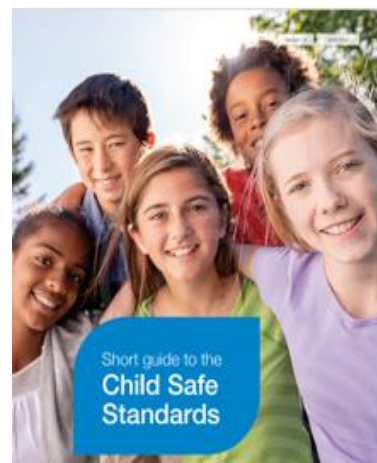
As always, there is so much happening in this area of ministry across our diocese.

- The eleven **Child Safe Standards** came into effect across Victoria on the **1st July 2022**.
- **Diocesan Safe Ministry Action Plan** (Action Plan) for meeting these new Standards.
- Four **Parish Workshops** with about 30 parishes across our diocese as part of the development of this action plan.
- **Safe Ministry Toolbox webpage** launched.
- **Safe Ministry training and Clearance for Service** update.
- Inaugural meeting of the diocese's **Accessibility and Inclusion Working Group** held in July.

Child Safe Standards

These Standards came into effect across Victoria on the **1st July 2022**, including in our Diocese and Parishes/Congregations. We encourage you to familiarise yourself with the Victorian Government's eleven new Child Safe Standards.

Some Parishes/Congregations have been asking for an updated tool to review themselves against the new Standards. The Safe Ministry team has created a self-assessment tool. If your Parish/Congregation would like a copy, please email safeministry@melbourneanglican.org.au.



Development of the Diocesan Safe Ministry Action Plan

The Safe Ministry Reference Group, Safe Ministry Officer and Registry Team have recently begun developing the Action Plan as requested by our regulator, the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP). This Action Plan will include diocesan responsibilities as well as parish requirements.

Parish Workshops

Bishop Genieve Blackwell hosted four workshops facilitated by Brian Holden and Rev'd Amy Brown with about 30 parishes representative of our diocese. A big thankyou to Clergy and Child Safe Officers who were able to participate in these and share on behalf of their parish. It was wonderful to hear about the many things that are happening in parishes across our Diocese in line with the new Standards. The information gathered will be used in the development of our Action Plan as well as to develop a resource of different practices parishes can implement to meet the Standards



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Safe Ministry Toolbox Webpage



The new Safe Ministry Toolbox webpage went live at the start of August. We have been working to make our website much more user friendly. This webpage forms a toolbox of resources which will be added to as more resources are developed. There is also a video from the Archbishop on this page.

The new link is <https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/safe-ministry/> - there are redirections active so old links will still work. Over the next few weeks, please change these old links to the new ones on your parish websites and documents. We are also working to edit the links in our documents and training.

Safe Ministry Training and Clearances for Service

A very big thank you to all parishes and congregations that have completed the initial round of ensuring that their employees and volunteers have undertaken the appropriate level/s of training and applied for a Clearance for Service if required for their role. These parishes are now maintaining their Volunteer and Lay Employee Registers on an ongoing basis and ensuring new volunteers are trained and cleared as required.



For those parishes and congregations who are still finalising their clearances and training, we encourage you to do so as soon as possible and to reach out if you need any assistance to the safe ministry email address.

WWCC (Working with Children Check)

- Everyone who is working with children holds a current WWCC (Working with Children Check).

Clearance for Service

- Everyone who is working with children within the definition of Schedule 1 of our Professional Standards Uniform Regulation 2017 holds or has applied for a Clearance for Service and has provided Kooyoora with any follow-up documentation requested by them.

Training

1. All Clergy and Lay Employees/Volunteers have completed Safe Ministry training Level 1.
2. All Clergy and any Lay Employees/Volunteers who are working with children and/or require Clearance for Service have also completed Safe Ministry Training Level 2.
3. Leaders (including clergy, churchwardens, parish councillors, ministry leaders) have either completed Level 3 training or will shortly do so as well Level 1 and 2 as required.

Volunteer & Lay Employee Register

- All volunteers and lay employees are listed on the Parish/AACs register and the details are updated on an ongoing basis.

Key Safe Ministry Documents

- All Clergy and any Lay Employees and Volunteers who are working with children have:
 - Read Faithfulness in Service and the Code of Conduct for Child Safety.
 - Signed the Statement of Commitment for Child Safety and this retained at the parish.



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The Registry Team has nearly completed the review of all the Volunteer and Lay Employee Registers received and thanks everyone responsible at the parishes for the tremendous amount of work undertaken in this process.

The Safe Ministry training online modules have been hosted through the OpenLearning platform by Creating Safer Communities (CSC). Over the past six months, CSC have been investigating a better option and have built their modules using a new platform which we will be moving to by the end of August. With this move comes a few process changes. Once these are finalised, further information, as well as links to all levels of training, will be available on the [training page](#) on our website.

Did you know...?

Child Safe Standard #8 requires each organisation to consider its individual risks and responsibilities and develop its own strategies to keep children safe within its context.

...general training on child safety or the Standards will not equip your organisation's staff and volunteers to understand and implement the specifics of your Child Wellbeing and Safety Policy, Code of Conduct and complaint handling policy. (A guide for creating a Child Safe Organisation, P134)

Accessibility and Inclusion Working Group

The first meeting of our Accessibility and Inclusion Working Group was held in mid-July with a group of people passionate to see all our parishes accessible and inclusive for everyone no matter their abilities. This group is working on a survey for our Diocese to begin to gain a greater understanding of the barriers to accessibility and inclusion and how we can remove them. Please look out for this survey towards the end of August 2022.

Helpful Resources

Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) - useful guides and information, including [translated information sheets](#) in many languages.

eSafety Commissioner - information about popular and emerging online technologies and ways to manage online risks, including information for use with [children](#) and [young people](#).

SNAICC – *Keeping Our Kids Safe* resources for Cultural Safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.



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Coming Up

National Child Protection Week is happening 4 – 10 September 2022. The theme for this week is *Every child, in every community, needs a fair go.*

Parishes and Authorised Congregations are encouraged to include a focus on Child Protection in their services. Check out the [NAPCAN website](#) for more information including the Children's art Activity.

Does everyone in your parish / congregation know how to **speaK up if they have a concern about the safety and wellbeing of a child or young person?**

If something doesn't look, feel or sound right, **speaK up**.

Adults can support children and young people to tell someone they trust if they have a concern.

This reporting poster, as well as other Child Safety posters, is available on the [Parish Resources page](#) of the Safe Ministry website.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IS A COMMUNITY-WIDE RESPONSIBILITY

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF MELBOURNE

Reporting Child Abuse in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

1 If a child is in **immediate danger** at any point **CALL 000**

2 All suspicions or reports of child abuse must be reported to:

- Police
- Child Protection
- Kooyoora Professional Standards

What is Child Abuse?
Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to:
Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, Grooming and Neglect.

Who can report neglect and abuse of a child under the age of 18?
Children, Parents, Staff, Volunteers, Anyone.

What sorts of things must be reported?
All child safety concerns must be reported:
• Disclosure of past and present abuse and harm
• Allegations, suspicions or observations
• Breaches of the Code of Conduct

CONTACT NUMBERS: POLICE 000 CHILD PROTECTION SEE BELOW KOOYOORA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 1800 135 246

Contact the child protection intake service that covers the area in which the child lives:

North Division 1300 664 977	South Division 1300 655 795	East Division 1300 369 391	West Division (Rural and regional only) 1800 075 599	West Division (Metropolitan only) 1300 664 977
Area Includes: Berrville, Darebin, Hurnc, Maccadam, Ranges, Moreland, N. Kumbik, Whitelease, Yarra.	Area Includes: Dayside, Cardinia, Casey, Frankston, Glen Eira, Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Korrington Peninsula, Port Phillip, Stonnington.	Area Includes: Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Merri-bon, Mitchell, Monash, Murrindindi, Whittlesea, Yarra Ranges.	Area Includes: Colleen, Moorabool, Queenscliffe, Surf Coast.	Area Includes: Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Melton, Moonee Valley, Wyncham.



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