



Safe Ministry NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the December Safe Ministry 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 send us and email to safeministry@melbourneanglican.org.au.

A Message from Anne

Safe Ministry and Inclusion Officer



Firstly, thank you for all the effort and time put in to applying for clearances and completing training, the clergy declarations, and parish volunteer and lay employee registers. We know these take time but they are all important in keeping especially children and young people safe.

Thank you for your continued investment and engagement as we develop the culture of safety in all areas of ministry and church life across our diocese. As always, please keep in touch via email, safeministry@melbourneanglican.org.au.

Anne

A 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

- written by Bishop Genieve Blackwell and Revd. Amy Brown, 2022



Making the Word of God fully known

In this edition of the Safe Ministry Newsletter, you can read more about:

- **Safe Ministry Training**
- **Diocesan Safe Ministry Action Plan** (Action Plan) for meeting the new Child Safe Standards
- **Risk Management Tool**
- **New Parish Office Bearers and Position Holders**
- **Safe Ministry Toolbox webpage**
- **Access and Inclusion Update**

Safe Ministry Training Update

Throughout 2022 we have had a few options for completing training available to parishes. The Level 1 and 2 online training are easily accessible for all clergy, staff and volunteers through the diocesan [training page](#) on the Safe Ministry Toolbox webpage. These online modules can also be used by a parish in facilitated small groups. The resources for running these groups can be found on the [training page](#) of the Safe Ministry Toolbox. Currently Level 3 training is available through Zoom sessions - the link for booking into these is also on the training page. Face to face training is also available for all 3 levels of training.

For parishes and congregations who have used the facilitated small groups, we hope you have found this a helpful way to training people in your parish. To keep reliable records of this method of training, we are asking you to please use the parish facilitated group training register (on the [training page](#) of the toolbox website) to list all participants and email it to safeministry@melbourneanglican.org.au. We ask that this be sent to the diocese by Monday 30th January 2023.

Diocesan Safe Ministry Action Plan

The Action Plan is continuing to be developed by the Safe Ministry Reference Group (SMRG), Safe Ministry and Inclusion Officer and Registry Team in consultation with a representative group of parishes/congregations. Once the action plan final draft is completed and approved by Archbishop in Council, it will be rolled out across our diocese.

Risk Management Tool

The Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) have asked the diocese to complete a child abuse risk management plan. The Safe Ministry Reference Group and Safe Ministry and Inclusion Officer have began working on this through 2022 in consultation with the representative group of parishes and congregations. The first step in this process was surveys for senior leaders, clergy, child safety officers, children and youth ministry staff/leaders and families.

Child Safe Standard #4 requires each organisation to inform and involve Families and communities in promoting child safety and wellbeing

How does your parish/congregation do this?

Check out the [Guide to Creating a Child Safe Organisation](#) For more information. There are also more [resources](#) on the CCYP website.



This group of parishes/congregations have also participated in workshops and asked some questions of their youth, children, and families about what makes them feel safe/unsafe in their parish. We are now working on the final steps to develop mitigation strategies to reduce/remove/manage risk. Parishes and congregations will still need to do their own risk management for their site-specific risks.

New Parish Office Bearers and Position Holders

As we come to end of our Annual Meeting season and roles change, please ensure new volunteers complete the Safe Ministry requirements (Clearances, Statement of Commitment, Training etc as applicable) and the parish Volunteer and Lay Employee Register is updated accordingly.

Safe Ministry Toolbox Webpage

Just a reminder to familiarise yourself your staff and volunteers with the Safe Ministry Toolbox webpage. This user-friendly webpage forms a toolbox of resources which is updated regularly and as additional resources are developed.



On the latest News page, you will find past editions of the Safe Ministry Newsletter as well as the Safe Ministry video which was prepared for Synod.

Please ensure your parish website has a link to this Safe Ministry Toolbox page. The new link is <https://www.melbourneanglican.org.au/safe-ministry/> - there are redirections active so old links will still work.

Access and Inclusion

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the diocesan survey of access and Inclusion. The results of this survey will help in the development of an Accessibility Action Plan and ensuring all people can access and be part of parishes and congregations across the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

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](#).



Making the Word of God fully known

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.

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE IS A COMMUNITY-WIDE RESPONSIBILITY



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MELBOURNE

Reporting Child Abuse in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

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

<p>2 All suspicions or reports of child abuse must be reported to:</p> <p>Police Child Protection Kooyoora Professional Standards</p>	<p>What is Child Abuse?</p> <p>Abuse and neglect includes but is not limited to:</p> <p>Physical Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Family Violence, Sexual Abuse, Grooming and Neglect.</p>	<p>Who can report neglect and abuse of a child under the age of 18?</p> <p>Children, Parents, Staff, Volunteers, Anyone.</p>	<p>What sorts of things must be reported?</p> <p>All child safety concerns must be reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosure of past and present abuse and harm • Allegations, suspicions or observations • Breaches of the Code of Conduct
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<p>CONTACT NUMBERS:</p>	<p>POLICE 000</p>	<p>CHILD PROTECTION SEE BELOW</p>	<p>KOYOORA PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS 1800 135 246</p>
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Contact the child protection intake service that covers the area in which the child lives:

<p>North Division 1300 664 977</p> <p>Area Includes: Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Macedon Ranges, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, Yarra.</p>	<p>South Division 1300 655 795</p> <p>Area Includes: Bayside, Cardinia, Casey, Frankston, Glen Eira, Greater Dandenong, Kingston, Mornington Peninsula, Port Phillip, Stonnington.</p>	<p>East Division 1300 369 391</p> <p>Area Includes: Booroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Mitchell, Monash, Murrindindi, Whitehorse, Yarra Ranges.</p>	<p>West Division (Rural and regional only) 1800 075 599</p> <p>Area Includes: Colden Plains, Greater Geelong, Moorabool, Queenscliffe, Surf Coast.</p>	<p>West Division (Metropolitan only) 1300 664 977</p> <p>Area Includes: Brimbank, Hobsons Bay, Maribyrnong, Melbourne, Melton, Moonee Valley, Wyndham.</p>
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