



The Catholic Parish of Sacred Heart and St Columba

*Our Parish is a Christian community which welcomes all to walk together
in a spirit of compassion, justice and hope.*

*Our Parish is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity
of all children and vulnerable adults.*

Safeguarding Report for 1 August PLDT meeting

New Child Safe Standards

The Commission for Children and Young People have published new resources to help with Child Safe Standard 1: Understanding cultural safety for Aboriginal children and young people including:

- Understanding cultural safety for Aboriginal children and young people: A resource for implementing Child Safe Standard 1
- Tips for creating a culturally safe environment
- Frequently asked questions with Meena Singh, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People
- Days of importance for Aboriginal communities.

Our Safeguarding Committee is working through the new Self Assessment Tool and will utilise these resources to address Standard 1.

Parish Safeguarding Culture

There still seems to be some misunderstanding and resistance from a small cohort of volunteers to obtaining a Working With Children Check (WWCC). The PLDT and other parish committees must take a lead in supporting volunteers to undertake this check as it is part of the volunteer requirements.

Any new volunteer is provided a 'kit' which includes information and instructions about applying for a WWCC. Jane is available to help anyone who requires assistance with this.

The safeguarding committee have confirmed that if a parishioner volunteers for a 'one-off' event and doesn't have a WWCC they must be 'supervised / work with' an authorised person / committee member.

Proactive suggestions of how to promote the WWCC are welcomed through the minutes.

We appreciate the continued support from the PLDT and other committee members to inform volunteers of the valid and parish endorsed reasons for the requirement of a WWCC. It is not about working with children or not, it is about supporting the safeguarding culture and the significant suite of safeguarding measures that our parish has adopted to ensure that all vulnerable people and those supporting them are safe from harm.

We respectfully acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam clan of the Boonwurrung Nation who are the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land.