

# Safeguarding Newsletter

Sisters of the Good Samaritan of the Order of St Benedict



## Message from the Superior

A commitment to safeguarding is in our congregational DNA. The Samaritan traveller went “above and beyond” in ensuring the safety of the wounded man on the Jericho Road. Our first ministry was to provide safety and security to vulnerable women and their children in Sydney. For 165 years in Australia, then in Japan, the Philippines and Kiribati, we have worked in diverse ministries which have aimed to enable the flourishing of all in our care. Safeguarding work continues today, as you can read in the pages of this informative newsletter.

I encourage and thank all of you for your ongoing commitment to safeguarding.

## Statement of Commitment to Safeguarding

The Congregation of Sisters of the Good Samaritan is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and adults at risk.

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan prioritise the principles of safeguarding at all levels of our Congregation’s life and mission.

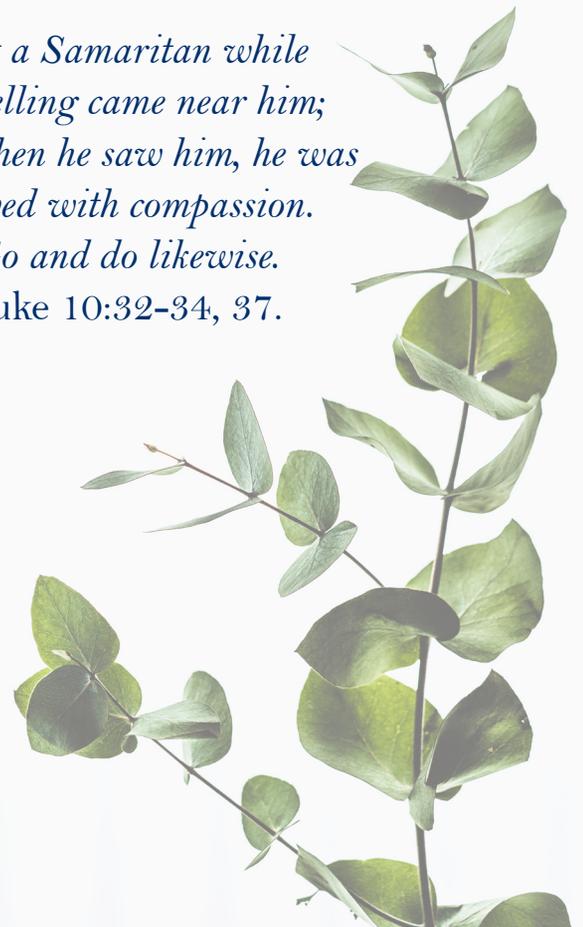
We have zero-tolerance to any attitude or action that makes children and adults less than safe.

We commit to being respectful, compassionate, and upholding the dignity of others.

*But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion.*

*Go and do likewise.*

*Luke 10:32-34, 37.*



## National Catholic Safeguarding Standards Audit

In the latter half of this year the Sisters of the Good Samaritan continue to work diligently on a self-assessment of practices, policies and culture against the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. The evidence is being entered into an online portal endorsed by Australia Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL).

The finalised self-assessment will be submitted early 2023. The next step will involve ACSL completing a desk top review and then visiting onsite to finalise the audit and determine an outcome.

Our initial review indicates the practices, policies and culture of Safeguarding across the Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan are developed and embedded.



Left: Selfie time at a meet and greet opportunity with the Sisters of the Red Hill ACT community



We are committed to the  
**NATIONAL CATHOLIC  
SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS**

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan pledge to implement the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and are committed to safe discipleship.

## Online Ministry Register

During November and December of this year, Sisters in active ministry updated their ministry details online. The Sisters answered several safeguarding questions. This new process gathers information that assists to understand the risks involved in leading and participating in ministry. The information helps determine gaps in our safeguarding practices and resources. SGS is committed to ensuring both a Sister and her participant(s) are safe whilst engaging in ministry together.

## Commitment to Safeguarding Community Resource Australia

The purpose of the Safeguarding Community Resource is to present information in an easy-to-read document that supports the Sisters knowledge and application of a culture of safety and care. All communities in Australia received this resource in September and were requested to consider where the booklet would be located.

Information in the resource covers:

- Acknowledgement & Dedication
- SGS Commitment to Safeguarding
- SGS Code of Practice
- Breaches of the SGS Code of practice
- Receiving a Disclosure of Harm
- Support Services - Australia
- Ministry Register Safeguarding Categories
- National Catholic Safeguarding Standards
- Community Safeguarding Contact - Australia
- Good Samaritan Safeguarding Prayer
- Glossary

## Safeguarding Project - Child Wise

The Congregation has been working with Child Wise since August 2021 to develop the Safeguarding Policy for the Sisters' ministries in Kiribati.

The first step was to set up a Reference Group (SGSC) to support the implementation of the project. The group was Bernadette Corboy, Taabeia Ibouri, Meg Kahler and Natalie Acton who worked with Sophie Hageman from Child Wise.

The second stage was context establishment, which included interviewing the Sisters to gain a cultural understanding of Kiribati.

The third stage, which is progressing now, is Child Safeguarding Review. In this stage, Sophie is working with all the Kiribati Sisters via zoom in a weekly session for an hour. This began in August 2022 and finishes at the beginning of December. Towards the end of each session there are some questions relating to the topic for each sister to reflect on and send back a response to Sophie.

Topics covered are Child Safeguarding Foundations, Leadership and Culture, Working with Children and families, Diversity and Equity, Safe and Supported Sisters and staff, Risk management and Complaints, Responding and Reporting.

We, the Sisters, found these sessions informative, helpful and challenging as well. And we have enjoyed each session.



Cultural day celebrated with family

## Good Samaritan Early Childhood Centre - Talk with Parents on Parental Styles

The Good Samaritan Early Childhood Centre is a safe place for all the children who come to learn. The Sisters and Volunteers take their responsibility seriously, and all aim to ensure that the children are safe, not just in school but within their families.

Sister Tibwau, the Director of GSECC, provided the parents with a talk on Parental Styles. She explained each of the 4 parenting styles, including the consequences of how each affects their children. The Parental Styles are: authoritarian, permissive, uninvolved and authoritative. The parents were very thankful for the talk because it helped them to realise particularly and become aware of how different styles affected their children's behaviour and minds. They asked many questions. The meeting with the parents went well.

## Kinder School Safeguarding Orientation to Parents of the Good Samaritan community in Bacolod, Philippines

The Talk is entitled: Safeguarding and Family Life. Our first orientation session was held last November 3, 2021.

Points of discussion included:

1. Teaching Boundaries & Reporting: Simple, common-sense steps can reduce a child's vulnerability
2. Recognizing the signs of abuse
3. Teaching children to say, "Stop it," to instructions that might encourage them to do things that they really do not want to do
4. Knowing where children spend their time
5. Parents visiting school
6. Finding out if the child's school or church religious education programs include an abuse (and sex abuse) prevention curriculum



The image above shows very attentive parents.



The images show Sr Donna Ferrer sgs presenting the safeguarding orientation program to the parents of the kinder children.

