

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK

3-9 SEPTEMBER 2023

GET INVOLVED!

**EVERY CHILD
IN EVERY
COMMUNITY
NEEDS
A FAIR GO**

National Child Protection Week (NCPW) invites all Australians to play their part to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

In 2023, NCPW is centred around the theme, 'Where we start matters'. *Where we start* our lives in terms of where we live, the resources available to us, and the opportunities presented to us make a significant difference to our life outcomes. *Where we start* as a service sector in offering children and their families support and assistance makes a significant difference to life outcomes. *Where we start* as decision makers in addressing large complex policy problems such as child abuse and neglect, also has a significant personal, social and economic outcome.

We can stop child abuse and neglect – and reduce its impact – by working together to make sure every child in every community has a fair go.

The Office of Safeguarding is the organisational expression of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's abiding commitment to promote the safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons, working closely with the Diocese's parishes, schools, social services, early education and out-of-school hour care programs.

This NCPW, we will be looking at what children are telling us, what families are telling us, what the evidence is telling us, and how to translate this knowledge into action.

We know that too many children are not growing up safe and supported and that child protection systems are overloaded. There are many opportunities to change the trajectory for these children.

HOW ST NICKS CAN GET INVOLVED

DECORATE YOUR GATE

In recognition of National Child Protection Week 2023, we're asking our St Nicks centres to decorate their gate, fence or alternative space in-line with the theme, 'Where we start matters'.

WIN
**\$500 FOR
YOUR CENTRE
OR SERVICE
COMMUNITY**

TO ENTER

Submit up to three photos and a 150-word description explaining how your entry is connected to this year's theme, 'Where we start matters.'

Deadline: Friday, September 8th, 5pm

Upload here: <http://mn.shor.tn/DYGenter>

HOW ST NICKS CAN GET INVOLVED!

DOWNLOADABLE RESOURCES

- The National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect (NAPCAN) has several resources available to download and display, including posters and colouring in worksheets.
Visit - <https://www.napcan.org.au/get-involved-2023/>
- The eSafety Commissioner has developed a large number of resources to suit all education levels on topics most relevant to the children in your centre. This includes short films and videos, role-playing activities, story and activity packs and slide presentations.
Visit - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/classroom-resources>
- The National Office for Child Safety has worked in partnership with SNAICC to create resources that provide an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lens, supporting cultural safety for children and families in centres.
Visit - <https://www.childsafety.gov.au/resources/keeping-our-kids-safe>

ONLINE EVENTS

- Australia's Biggest Child Safety Lesson (ABC SL) is an annual initiative of the Daniel Morcombe Foundation now in its seventh year. In a livestreamed online format, ABC SL is an engaging, educational video that teaches age-appropriate personal safety strategies in an empowering manner. ABC SL provides schools, early learning services, and families with the tools to engage in effective conversations about child safety. The Daniel Morcombe Foundation's theme for 2023 is 'Consent'.

Open livestreamed sessions are available

- Tuesday 5 September 2023 (AEST)
9am – for the early years and junior primary (ages 4-7 years)
- For more information - <https://www.napcan.org.au/event/australias-biggest-child-safety-lesson-livestream/>
- To register - <https://danielmorcombe.com.au/keeping-kids-safe/keeping-kids-safe/australias-biggest-child-safety-lesson/>
- Online read and sing activities from eSafety
 - Online book read by Jimmy Rees – Swoosh, Glide and Rule Number 5
 - Sing – My Family Rules Song
To access - <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/children-under-5/picture-book-and-song#my-family-rules>

RAISE AWARENESS

- Consider how you can plan and program for children to learn about body safety and consent through the attached resources and websites.
- As a team, critically reflect on how you practice consent when interacting with children.
- Communicate the value and importance of teaching children about body safety, consent and respectful relationships to families to safeguard children and share relevant resources.
- Contact the OoSG to discuss Protective Behaviours training for early childhood educators to teach protective behaviours to children in their care between ages 2-6 years.
Email oostraining@mn.catholic.org.au
- **Decorate your gate to raise community awareness of child protection and safety!**



OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Download the Catholic Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle's Safeguarding Activity Book for children in your centre. Or place an order via the Order Form on the OOSG intranet page
- The Daniel Morcombe website has a range of resources including videos and activities for different age levels to help educate students in keeping safe. Visit <https://danielmorcombe.com.au/keeping-kids-safe-resources/>
- Display the Australian Human Rights Commission's child friendly summary of the children's rights poster – this link can be found here https://www.ehn.org.au/practitioner-resources/big-banter-child-rights-poster_245s130
- Put some communication tips in your centre's newsletter. For example:
 - Talking with our children about their friendships, fears and joys not only allows us to build strong connections with them but it allows us as parents to make a significant difference in their lives.
 - Tips to start meaningful conversations with your children include:
 - What are two great things that happened to you today?
 - What did your friends do today that made you feel happy?
 - What do you think it means to be safe?
 - Where do you feel safest?
 - Who makes you feel safe?
 - What activity do you enjoy doing? What do you like about that activity?
 - Successful communication with your child depends on what, how, when, where and why you say things. What you don't say is also important!
 - Kids Helpline has a great resource about tips when communicating with your children - https://kidshelpline.com.au/parents/issues/communication-tips?gclid=EAlalQobChMljsuB o8W6gAMVzNUWBR1gdg5eEAAYBCAAEgLW yPD_BwE
- Read a book to the students relating to personal safety and ask them to talk about how they felt about the book and what it meant to them. Visit - <https://bravehearts.org.au/great-kids-books-about-personal-safety-consent-and-body-ownership/>
- More information about teaching children personal safety - <https://bravehearts.org.au/about-child-sexual-abuse/personal-safety-for-children-young-people/>
 - Educate to Empower has a range of free resources for children, families and educators on body safety and consent. – <https://e2epublishing.info/>
 - Download some posters about body safety from Educate 2 Empower or place these posters in your communication to parents. Visit - <https://e2epublishing.info/posters>
- To listen to what Australian children and young people think about safety in organisations, follow this link to view research conducted by The Institute of Child Protection Studies at the Australian Catholic University. Visit - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jaxjSu4UGlw>
- Share these padlet links with the parents/carers/guardians. Visit - <https://padlet.com/childprotection/resources-for-parents-carers-teacher-jqddlxahc0zswvk4>
- Download the 2023 National Child Protection Week Children's Activity Booklet!
 - The booklet has a range of creative activities for children and young people. Download it at <https://www.napcan.org.au/getinvolved-2023/> in the 'For Kids' section.