

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 OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CAN GET INVOLVED

DECORATE YOUR GATE

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

PRIZES

**\$4,000 FOR
YOUR SCHOOL
COMMUNITY**

(1 x primary prize,
1 x secondary prize)

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 OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS 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.
- The eSafety Commissioner has developed a large number of resources to suit all education levels (from lower primary to upper secondary) on topics most relevant to your students. This includes short films and videos, role-playing activities, story and activity packs and slide presentations.



HOST AN EVENT

- Engage a service provider to present a topic relating to child protection for staff.
- Hold a workshop for staff around the theme *where we start matters*.
- Contact the OoSG to discuss Protective Behaviours training for early childhood educators to teach protective behaviours to children in their care.
Email oostraining@mn.catholic.org.au.
- Host a morning tea, BBQ or other event to promote National Child Protection Week.
- Host an out-of-uniform day to promote National Child Protection Week
- Bravehearts Day is on Friday 9 September. This day is aimed at the prevention of child sexual assault. You may choose to host a fun run or have an out-of-uniform day where students are encouraged to wear something white. For other ideas on how to get involved. Visit - <https://www.braveheartsdays.com.au/>



ONLINE EVENTS

- The eSafety Commissioner is running live virtual classroom webinars for upper primary (years 3-6) which explores what you can do to protect yourself online – ‘Be an eSafe Kid: Protect Yourself’:
Monday 4 September, 9:30 – 10:30am
Wednesday 6 September, 2:00 – 2:45pm
Thursday 7 September, 2:00 – 2:45pm
Friday 8 September, 9:30 – 10:30am
- 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 live streamed sessions are available to all State, Catholic and Independent schools (AEST)

Tuesday 5 September 2023 (AEST)

9am – for the early years and junior primary (ages 4-7 years)

10am – for the upper primary (ages 8-12 years)

- mnpeople eLearning opportunity, eSafety – Responding and Reporting: Critical Online Incidents in School Settings. NESA Elective PD 0.5 hours
- Resources for Primary School students (<https://padlet.com/childprotection/resources-for-primary-school-students-ta8uzzgbz8vlvku0>)
- Resources for High School Students (<https://padlet.com/childprotection/resources-for-high-school-students-nh1jukq19j6cby33>)
- Resources for Parents/Carers/Teacher (<https://padlet.com/childprotection/resources-for-parents-carers-teacher-jqddlxahc0zsvwk4>)



HOW OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CAN GET INVOLVED!

OTHER WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Display the Australian Human Rights Commission's child friendly summary of the children's rights poster – https://www.napcan.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/NAPCAN_rights-of-the-child-poster_0614-1.pdf



- The Daniel Morcombe website has a range of resources including video's and activities for different age levels to help educate students in keeping safe. Visit <https://danielmorcombe.com.au/keeping-kids-safe-resources/>.

- 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.



- 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.

- Put some tips in your school newsletter / Compass platform.

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. *Where we start matters.*

- 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?
 - What are you most proud of?
 - 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=EAlaIqobChMljsuBo8W6gAMVzNUWBR1gdg5eEAAYBCAAEgLWypD_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/>

