



**Diocese of Toowoomba**  
**Community Safeguarding Support and**  
**Abuse Prevention Programs Guide**  
**14 April 2023**

Parishes and Diocesan Ministries are encouraged to provide safeguarding information to their communities on personal support and abuse prevention programs that are available in the wider community as well as in the Church community. This information may be provided in a number of ways:

- a) in a Parish Pamphlet or Brochure;
- b) in the weekend Parish Newsletter over a number of weeks;
- c) as a Poster on the Church Notice Board;
- d) as a special feature during the annual Safeguarding Week including Safeguarding Sunday;
- e) as part of the homily on Safeguarding Sunday;
- f) be included in the safeguarding induction and refresher training for Ministry Volunteers in Parish or Diocesan Ministry communities.

**Abuse Prevention programs in the wider community can be accessed through different sources:**

**a) Diocesan based programs**

through **CatholicCare social services** (1300 477 433) [www.catholiccare.services](http://www.catholiccare.services)

- i) Children's Counselling: for any form of childhood trauma;
- ii) Individual Counselling: for those impacted by trauma;

*"We believe individuals, families and communities throughout our region need to be empowered to meet the challenges of life and relationships": Kate Venables, Executive Director*

**b) School based programs:**

**Daniel Morcombe Foundation** programs (1300 326 435) [www.danielmorcombe.com.au](http://www.danielmorcombe.com.au)

*The aims of the Foundation are to educate children and young people about how to stay safe in physical and online environments and to support young victims of crime.*

**Keeping Kids Safe Resources** (Morcombe Foundation):

*The resources are written for a diverse range of students from prep to senior years and the suite contains over 20 videos and activities. They are best used as part of a comprehensive whole school or community approach to personal safety education.*

**c) Community based programs:**

i) **Kids Helpline** (1800 55 1800) [www.kidshelpline.com.au](http://www.kidshelpline.com.au)

*Free and confidential 24/7 online and phone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.*

ii) **Headspace** (1800 650 890) [www.eheadspace.org.au](http://www.eheadspace.org.au)

*"We support young people with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drug services, as well as work and study support. With a focus on early intervention, we work with young people to provide support at a crucial time in their lives – to help get them back on track and strengthen their ability to manage their mental health in the future".*

iii) **Office of the eSafety Commissioner** (1800 880 176) [www.esafety.gov.au](http://www.esafety.gov.au)

*“The eSafety Commissioner (eSafety) is Australia’s independent regulator for online safety. We are the world’s first government agency dedicated to keeping people safer online. We started operations in 2015 as the Children’s eSafety Commissioner and we are now at the forefront of the fight against online risks and harms faced by adults as well as children. We are a fast-growing team of educators, investigators, lawyers, policy analysts, technology experts, digital specialists and other professionals who share one goal – a safer and more positive online experience for all Australians. Australia’s eSafety Commissioner is Julie Inman Grant. Ms Inman Grant has extensive experience in the technology industry, having held senior public policy and safety roles with Microsoft, Twitter and Adobe”.*

iv) **Life Line** (13 1114) [lifeline.org.au](http://lifeline.org.au)

*“Lifeline is a non-profit organisation that provides free, 24-hour telephone crisis support service in Australia. Volunteer crisis supporters provide suicide prevention services, mental health support and emotional assistance, not only via telephone but face-to-face and online”.*

v) **Beyond Blue** (1300 22 4636) [beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au)

*“Beyond Blue has been providing supports and services to people in Australia for 20 years. We are Australia’s most well-known and visited mental health organisation, focused on supporting people affected by anxiety, depression and suicide. We don’t ever take this position for granted nor do we rest on our laurels. The generational defining events of 2020 have required us to be innovative and agile in responding to the needs of the communities we serve.”*

vi) **1800Respect** (1800 737 732) [1800respect.org.au](http://1800respect.org.au)

*“1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) is the national domestic, family and sexual violence counselling, information and support service. 1800RESPECT is funded by the Australian Government through the [Department of Social Services](#) to provide support for:*

*People experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic, family and sexual violence*

*People supporting someone experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic, family and sexual violence*

*Professionals supporting someone experiencing, or at risk of experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence.*

*We are a confidential service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week”.*

Our Diocese, through Parishes, Diocesan Ministries and Diocesan Agencies in education and social services, takes a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse. Providing children, young people and adults at risk, and their families, friends and communities, with current information on abuse prevention programs, empowers them to take effective action in their care for each other and themselves.