

UPDATE No 1, 2020

Mandatory Child Protection Reporting

On 1 March 2020 amendments to the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* (Care Act) expanded mandatory reporter obligations to include persons in religious ministry or persons providing religion-based activities to children.

Mandatory reporting obligations already apply to persons who work in health care, welfare, education, disability services, children's services, residential services, law enforcement and registered psychologists providing a professional service as a psychologist (whether or not exclusively to children).

Mandatory reporting is a legislative requirement to make a report to government authorities when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at risk of significant harm and those grounds arise in the course of, or from a person's work

A detailed bulletin has been sent to all clergy, stipended Lay Ministers, LLM's, SRE teachers and other persons providing religious activities to children. It contains information about:

- Making a decision about whether to make a report.
- Making a report.
- eReporting.
- Informing the Diocese.
- Protection for reporters.
- Learning resources.

If you are now a mandatory reporter and did not receive the bulletin please check with your Rector or contact Maree Collett on pa@graftondiocese.org.au.

Information and Resources for doing Ministry safely during COVID-19

Many Parishes will be moving to providing children's activities online. Ensuring the ongoing safety of children in these different circumstances has recently been a topic of discussion among the NSW Bishops and of a bulletin from the Australian Government eSafety Commissioner.

One particular question that has been asked is about what we should be doing to protect children, youth and other vulnerable people who "join" services and other activities that are live-streamed. Where there is a sign-in or registration process, or it is by invitation, some of the resources I have shared are helpful. Where it is free and open it is more difficult and will rely heavily on the vigilance of parents and carers.

If you wish to report any information or concerns relating to abuse in any of the Ministry Units in the Anglican Diocese of Grafton please contact the Director of Professional Standards.

Phone: 1800 370 757

email: dps@graftondiocese.org.au

I intend seeking some further advice, starting with those of you who have been doing this for a while. In the meantime, I would encourage a couple of simple things:

1. If you have left the ability to comment switched on, make sure someone monitors or reviews what is happening.
2. Consider putting up some general advice for people on how to manage their devices so that are only accessible to those with whom they choose to be connected. A good starting point for this is the eSafety Commission's [eSafety Guide](#). This provides very useful safety and privacy information for a wide range of social media applications.

The attached general information is provided for your assistance.

Phillip Bonser
Director of Professional Standards
22nd April 2020

From the Safe Ministry Unit of the Anglican Diocese of Sydney

With the rapidly changing environment we find ourselves due to COVID-19, we are aware that many ministries are moving their meetings online during these exceptional circumstances.

We are fortunate to have the technology that gives us the option to meet virtually and thereby continue many aspects of our ministries.

But with that technology comes risks and hazards – especially in the context of children’s and youth ministries.

So, we urge our churches to take the time to think and work though the implications of doing ministry online with their children (in this context, aged 8-12 years) and young people (13-17 years old).

General article:

[*Going online with your youth ministry during COVID-19*](#)

Article:

[*Technology with children during COVID-19*](#)

Article/Guidelines:

[*Child Safe Standards – Online safety and COVID-19*](#)

Video Conferencing Guidelines:

[*Principles when using video conferencing*](#)

Guidelines: [*Managing security when using Zoom*](#)

Permission Form:

[*Template specifically for youth/children to attend video meetings*](#)

Article:

[*Talking to children and young people about COVID-19*](#)

General resources:

[*For doing ministry safely during the pandemic*](#)

Tip Sheet:

[*For churches during heightened period of domestic abuse risk during COVID-19*](#)

From the Australian Government eSafety Commissioner

NEW WEBINARS

I would like to highlight the [Child protection and online learning webinars](#) we are commencing on Wednesday. We have prepared this webinar in response to a range of questions about how schools and organisations can promote and maintain child safety and wellbeing while delivering online learning. This rapid transition to online learning may increase and intensify online safety risks and harms for young people, teachers and parents.

[Here is a list](#) of all the upcoming webinars. You are most welcome to pass these details on to your community so they can register.

<p>Child protection and online learning</p> <p>This 30-minute webinar is suitable for educators and organisations working with young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 22nd April 10-10:30 am• Wednesday 22nd April 8-8:30 pm• Friday 24th April 10-10:30 am• Wednesday 29th April 11:30-12 pm• Friday 1st May 1-1:30 pm	<p>Helping kids thrive online</p> <p>One-hour webinar suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 5-12 years old.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 21st April 8-9 pm• Tuesday 28th April 12-1 pm
<p>Tech, teens and time online</p> <p>One-hour webinar suitable for parents and carers of young people aged 12-18 years old.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 21st April 12-1 pm• Wednesday 29th April 8-9 pm	<p>Keeping safe and healthy online</p> <p>This 30-minute webinar was developed especially for children aged 7-12 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 21st April 10-10:30 am• Tuesday 28th April 10:30-11 am• Wednesday 29th April 10:30-11 am• Wednesday 6th May 10:30-11 am
<p>Keeping your sanity and supporting your kids online</p> <p>This 30-minute webinar is suitable for parents and carers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday 4th May 1-1:30 pm• Wednesday 6th May 8:30-9 pm• Tuesday 12th May 8:30 9 pm	<p>My house, my rules</p> <p>This 30-minute webinar is suitable for parents/carers and their children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wednesday 22nd April 11:30-12 pm• Friday 8th May 11:30-12 pm• Tuesday 12th May 11:30-12 pm• Wednesday 14 May 11:30-12 pm

COVID-19 ESAFETY RESOURCES

- [Open letter to Australia's school principals and teachers](#)
- [Open letter to Australia's parents and carers](#)
- [Online safety kit for parents and carers](#)
- Blogs:
 - [COVID-19: Protecting children from online abuse](#)
 - [COVID-19: keeping schools and learning safe online](#)
 - [COVID-19: online safety tips to help older Australians with social distancing](#)
 - [COVID-19: online safety help for domestic and family violence workers](#)
 - [COVID-19: advice for women experiencing domestic violence](#)
- [Australian Edition COVID-19 Global ONLINE SAFETY ADVICE for parents and carers](#)
- The [eSafety guide](#) has new information on [Zoom](#) and the app [Houseparty](#).
- In April and May we will be running live [parent webinars](#)
- eSafety's NESAs and TQI accredited [professional learning program for teachers](#)