

4 August 2014

CIRCULAR TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PRINCIPALS - DIOCESE OF BALLARAT

Dear Colleague

Re: Child Protection Sunday – 14 September 2014
(Held at the end of Child Protection week 7-13 September)

The 2014 Child Protection Week campaign continues to stress the importance of primary prevention to reduce child abuse and neglect in Australia. The theme again this year is:

'Protecting Children is Everybody's Business-Play Your Part'

So how do we, the Catholic Church, play our part today in creating safe and supportive environments where children are free from harm?

This question is commonly echoed today by Catholic people who are angry at and ashamed of our church. This question is also asked by survivors who want to be reassured that children of today and tomorrow are protected in our churches, schools and Catholic agencies and will not suffer as they did.

Child Protection Week provides a wonderful opportunity to share the policies, procedures and preventative strategies schools and all church agencies have in place for the protection of children and young people. These documents and procedures need to be 'owned' and 'lived'.

We need to raise awareness of our diocesan policies, procedures, initiatives and recent training in this important area, and publicise them widely through the pulpit, on noticeboards, in bulletins, newsletters and intranet.

Attached are some excellent resources that you may choose to use during Child Protection Week or on Child Protection Sunday. These include:

1. Brochures

- Listening to Children (NAPCAN)
- Listening to Young People (NAPCAN)
- Keeping Children Safe from Sexual Abuse (NAPCAN)
- 30 Ways to Boost a Child's Confidence (NAPCAN)
- A Parents' Guide to Online Safety (Cybersmart: Australian Communications and Media Authority)

2. Posters for display in Churches, schools and other places of ministry will be available on the NAPCAN website from early August – www.napcan.org.au Resource hub.

Please use these materials to promote Child Protection Sunday and encourage everyone to 'Play their part'.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely



Audrey Brown
Director of Catholic Education

