



**ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD
IN THE DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY
REVISED SAFEGUARDING CHARTER
RELEASE OF 2026 SAFEGUARDING AWARENESS THEME**

10 February 2026

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In recognition of our sacred duty to protect the dignity of all those entrusted to our care, and in response to the dynamic challenges in this dimension of our shared journey of faith, I am pleased to announce a revised Diocese of Broken Bay Safeguarding Charter which is now available through all our ecclesial communities, parishes, schools, and agencies. This development reflects our deep commitment to continuous improvement and our responsibility to remain vigilant in fostering communities of safety and trust. The Charter sets out the governance, roles, and responsibilities that support a culture of safeguarding across our communities, parishes, schools and agencies ensuring that our practices are marked by clarity, transparency, and accountability.

Our Safeguarding Charter is not simply a policy document. It is a living expression of our shared vocation to care for one another, especially the most vulnerable. It is designed to be actively embraced, regularly reviewed, and embedded in the daily life of our Diocese. As members of the Body of Christ, we are called to uphold this commitment not only through compliance, but through compassion, attentiveness, and a spirit of service. Safeguarding is not a static obligation; it is a dynamic mission rooted in Gospel values and sustained by our shared faith.

This renewed commitment echoes the recent words of Pope Leo XIV at the National Safeguarding Conference in Clark-Angeles, Philippines, where he reminded us that “the Church is our spiritual home, as such, every parish and pastoral activity is meant to be a space in which we glorify God and care for others, especially children and the vulnerable.” Our updated Charter is our response to this call: a tangible sign of our accountability to one another and to the communities we serve, and a reaffirmation that safeguarding is central to our witness as disciples of Christ.

In February 2023, I committed our Diocese to an annual Diocesan Safeguarding Awareness Framework. This initiative continues to deepen our shared responsibility for safeguarding, marked by consistency, reflection, and a desire to respond to the evolving needs of our communities.

MOST REVEREND ANTHONY RANDAZZO BISHOP OF BROKEN BAY

PO Box 4369 Thornleigh NSW 2120 Australia P +61 2 8379 1614. E bishop@bbcatholic.org.au

www.bbcatholic.org.au



In 2024, our theme was “The Voice of the Vulnerable,” with a particular focus on Domestic and Family Violence. This theme was supported by our Diocesan resource, *A Catholic Response to Domestic Violence*, and helped guide our in-services and pastoral outreach.

In 2025, we turned our attention to the mental health crisis, especially among young people, through the theme “Raising Mental Health Awareness: Encouraging Hope for the Future.” This aligned with the Holy Year of Jubilee and its central theme of Hope, reminding us of the Church’s mission to accompany those in distress with compassion and care.

For 2026, after prayerful discernment and consultation, I have chosen the theme: *"Many Cultures: Safeguarding in Every Context"*

This theme invites us to explore how safeguarding is understood and practiced across diverse cultural and spiritual contexts. It aligns with the 2026 International Safeguarding Conference theme, “One Commitment, Many Contexts: Safeguarding Across Cultures,” and reflects our Diocese’s ongoing commitment to inclusive, responsive safeguarding.

Australia’s cultural landscape is richly diverse with over 29% of our population being born overseas, and nearly half having at least one parent born in a foreign country. More than one in five Australians speak a language other than English at home, and our nation is home to the world’s oldest continuous culture, with over 250 First Nations languages and 800 dialects historically spoken. Between 2016 and 2021, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population increased by 25%. This growth reflects the enduring strength and presence of First Nations peoples across our communities. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of listening to Indigenous voices, acknowledging diverse histories, and fostering respectful relationships. These developments remind us that safeguarding must be grounded in cultural understanding and shaped by the lived experiences of those we serve.

People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds often face language barriers, lower health literacy, and difficulty navigating unfamiliar systems. These challenges can affect how safeguarding messages are received and understood, especially in communities where concepts of risk, protection, and wellbeing are shaped by cultural and spiritual beliefs. The 2026 theme, *"Many Cultures: Safeguarding in Every Context"*, calls us to respond with hospitality, sensitivity and inclusion. By listening to diverse voices and recognising the values that shape their understanding of safety, we can build trust and ensure that safeguarding is truly accessible to all.

Building on the 2025 theme of mental health and hope, this year’s focus reinforces that safeguarding is not a one size fits all approach. By understanding the language, values, and belief systems of different cultures, we can better support vulnerable individuals and foster trust within communities. This is a call to deepen our pastoral sensitivity and to expand our safeguarding practices to reflect the diversity of our Diocese.



I am grateful to all our communities, parishes, schools, and agencies for the ways in which they continue to embody the values of safeguarding. Through this year's theme, may we renew our commitment to protect all people, especially the vulnerable, through understanding, respect, and inclusion. The updated Diocese Safeguarding Charter stands as a living expression of that commitment, a framework that guides our actions, strengthens our governance, and ensures that safeguarding remains at the heart of every parish, school, and agency. Let us not only endorse this Charter but actively embody its principles in all we do.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Anthony Randazzo

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo DD JCL
Bishop of Broken Bay