

Diocesan Safeguarding Strategic Advisory Panel

External Panel Members



Garth Blake AM SC has been a Barrister since 1984 and a Senior Counsel since 2002. He is a member of the Editorial Board of the international Ecclesiastical Law Journal and has published articles on issues of law and religion. He has held numerous roles in and on behalf of the Anglican Church of Australia, including Chair of the Safe Ministry Commission, Chair of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse Working Group. He is a member of the Safe Church Network of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Since 2017, Garth has been the Chair of the international Anglican Communion Safe Church Commission.



Professor Daryl Higgins commenced as the Director of the Institute of Child Protections Studies in February 2017. His research focuses on public health approaches to protecting children, and child-safe organisational strategies. A registered psychologist, Prof Higgins has been researching child abuse impacts and prevention, family violence and family functioning for over 20 years.



Professor Ilan Katz joined the Social Policy Research Centre in January 2005, becoming Director in July 2007-2011. After graduating in South Africa he started his career as a social worker in the UK. And was for several years Head of Practice Development and Research at the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Prof Katz spent some time as a civil servant in the Department for Education and Skills and then returned to research as Deputy Director of the Policy Research Bureau. He has led a number of large scale evaluations of human service programs, both in Australia and internationally and is a member of the Pathways of Care Longitudinal Study of children in care research consortium and is an investigator on the NSW Child Development Study. He is currently the chief investigator of several studies including the evaluation of OCHRE for NSW Aboriginal Affairs and is co-investigator on the Kids in Community Study. He was lead investigator on a number of research projects for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.



Sr Maree Marsh is a Brigidine sister with a background in education and psychology. As a member of the Truth, Justice and Healing Council, Maree attended many of the Hearings related to Catholic Church entities at the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Maree is currently the Co-Chair of Kildare Ministries, the civil and canonical authority for ministries previously owned by the Presentation Sisters in Victoria and the Brigidine Sisters. Her other work involves writing psychological reports for women and men trafficked to Australia. Maree is a member of the Marist Brothers Professional Standards Advisory Committee and the Brigidine Sisters Professional Standards Committee.