



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE
OF MELBOURNE

Empowering Children and Young People Webinar

Professional Standards Unit

20th July 2022



Prayer

We pray for people who have experienced abuse and those who journey with them and pray the Lord of all tenderness and compassion will restore them and give them peace.

With humility of heart, we ask Jesus to bless our work to create safe and supportive environments, for all people, particularly children and young people.

We thank you for this opportunity to come together and support one another to fulfil your will.

Amen



Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land of the Kulin Nation who have walked upon and cared for this country for thousands of years. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.



Acknowledgement to Victims and Survivors

We acknowledge the pain and harm caused to the victims and survivors of child abuse in the Catholic Church.

"No words of apology – while always needed – will ever be enough to right the evil done to those who have been abused, and those who were not listened to and believed. Efforts to repair the harm done – while entirely necessary – cannot overcome the evil perpetrated upon innocent children and vulnerable adults, and the harm experienced by families and communities".

Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli



Webinar Outline

- Catholic Social Teachings and how this links to empowering children and young people
- Overview of children's rights and responsibilities
- Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework and how this contributes to empowering children and young people
- Importance of engaging with children and young people
- Showcase of parishes who will share how they are engaging with children and young people



Reflection



Think about a time you felt unheard by an adult as a child

- How did this make you feel?
- What was your response - thoughts, feelings, beliefs?



Reflection

Think about a time you felt heard by an adult as a child

- How did they make you feel heard?
- What were the qualities of the listener?





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Love as the Foundation of Catholic Social Teaching



The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

“Love one another as I have loved you.” John 13:34

- Jesus gives us a new depth to the familiar commandment of the Old Testament. The standard now is “as I have loved you”.
- Catholic Social Teaching is based in love.
- Love of neighbor is inseparable from love of God.



Our Place in Society as Catholics

- “The human person needs to live in society. Society is not an...addition but a requirement of his nature.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1879)
- Each person, “rightly owes loyalty to the communities of which he is a part and respect for those in authority who have charge of the common good.” (CCC, 1880)



Our Participation in Social Life

- What is the common good?
- “the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily.” (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, *Gaudium et Spes*, 26.1)
- The common good consists of 3 essential elements or parts:
 - Presupposes *respect for the person*
 - Requires the *social well-being and development* of the society itself
 - Requires *peace* - the stability and *security* of society and its members
- The common good is always oriented toward the progress of persons.



Social Justice & Empowering Children

- “What is at stake is the dignity of the human person, whose defence and promotion have been entrusted to us by the Creator, and to whom men and women at every moment of history are strictly and responsibly in debt.” - St. John Paul II
- “The duty of making oneself a neighbour to others and actively serving them becomes even more urgent when it involves the disadvantaged, in whatever area this may be. ‘As you did this to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’ (Mt 25:40).” (CCC, 1932)





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Children's Rights and Responsibilities



The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Children's Rights

- To be safe and to feel safe
- To be heard and believed
- To be accepted and valued
- To be protected from harm and abuse
- To express their views freely in all matters affecting them

Children's Responsibilities

- Care for each other
- Respect each other
- Not engage in bullying or harmful behavior to others.



UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



Article 12

You have the right to give your opinion, and for adults to listen and take it seriously.





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Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework



The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

Safeguarding Children and Young People Framework

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards Standard 2 and Victorian Child Safe Standard 3:

Children and young people are **empowered** about their rights, **participate** in decisions affecting them and are **taken seriously**.



Children's Participation and Empowerment

According to the Commission for Children and Young People, participation and empowerment are described as:

Participation

- Giving children and young people opportunities to have their say and to inform decision-making.
- This requires organisations to listen, to hear, and make appropriate changes based on what children and young people share.

Empowerment

- Recognising and building on the strengths of children and young people.
- It helps children and young people to have greater confidence and to seek out support when they need to



Degrees of Participation

Asking for feedback or review

Where a document or plan is prepared and then people are asked for their opinion.

Consultation

This involves engaging people from the beginning of the project, by having a dialogue around an issue or project. At this level the final decisions are usually made by the organisation.

Partnership

This entails involving people from the beginning and working in collaboration with them. At this level there is more of a focus on shared decision making.



Examples of Participation

- Informal discussions with children and young people
- Surveys or feedback forms
- Information pack outlining ministry or group
- Child friendly posters and information sheets
- Brainstorming activities
- Focus groups
- Suggestion box
- Use of program reviews and evaluation to inform future engagement of children





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Importance of engaging with Children and Young People



The Archdiocese is committed to the safety, wellbeing and human dignity of children, young people and adults.

Why is it important to ask Children and Young People what they think?

- Children have different concerns, opinions and ways of understanding experiences.
- When they contribute to policy development and practice it increases a sense of ownership and confidence as well as connectedness with the organisation.
- Provides children the opportunity to learn valuable skills required to be active citizens



Why is it important to ask Children and Young People what they think?



- Empowering children and young people increases the likelihood of them being able to address matters of abuse of misconduct and increases their safety and wellbeing.
- Builds a culture of trust through transparency.
- Hearing and incorporating their views ensures that programs, services and activities better meet the needs of children and young people.



Taking Us Seriously – Research Report

- In 2014, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse commissioned Australian Catholic University to undertake a range of research activities including focus groups with children aged 4 – 18 years of age. The results were published in a report called “Taking us seriously”.
- These research findings can help us to understand how children perceive and experience safety within organizational institutions.
- It found that a major impediment to creating a child safe environment is when adults do not have an understanding of how children experience safety.



Taking Us Seriously – Research Report

“Put kids first a little more”
(YP -1)

“it’s not good when adults ask for our opinions but don’t do anything with it” (CH – 2)

“They (adults) need to know what procedures that they have to follow to do the right thing.”
(YP-3)

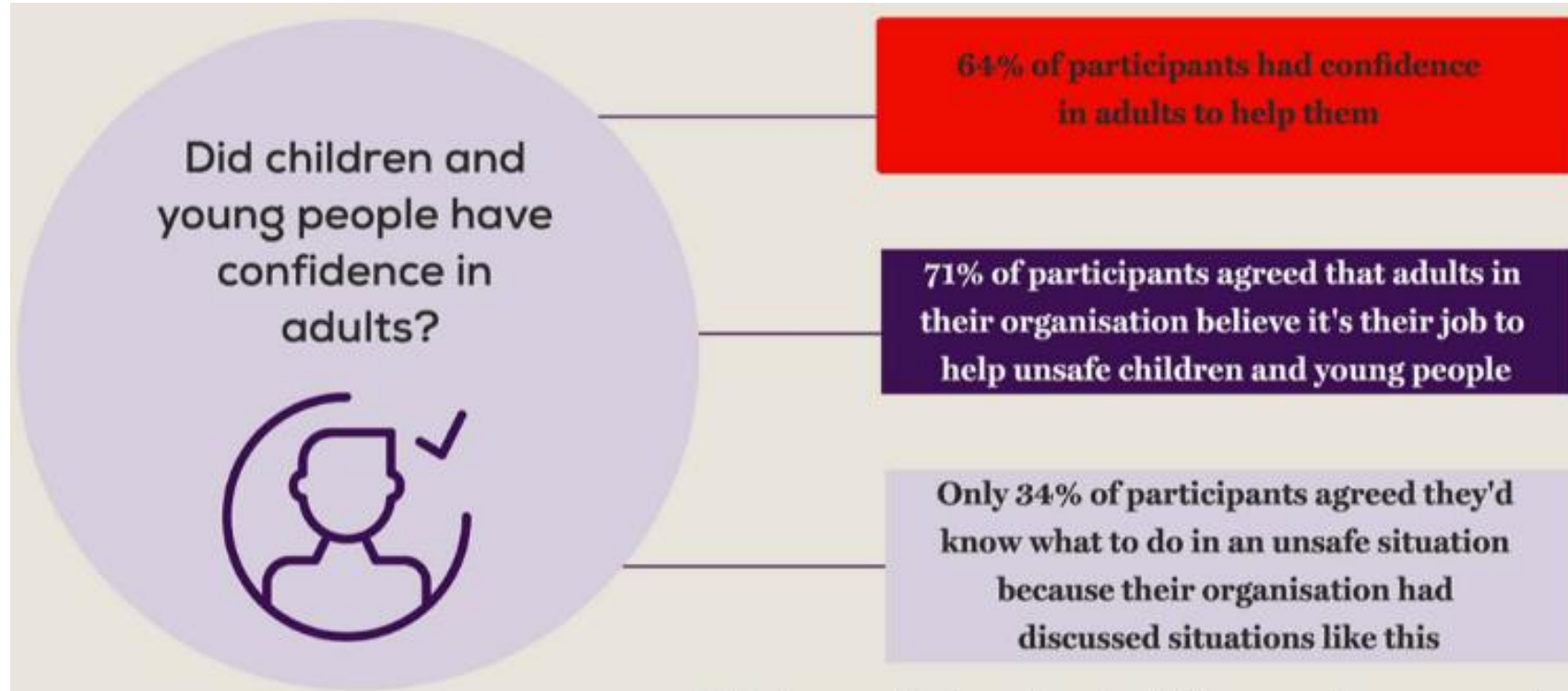
“These issues are real but they should talk about it in a way that makes things better not worse. If adults get all freaked out and stop us from doing things that’s not going to help.....” (YP-4)

“It’s good that kids are aware rather than being scared...raising awareness is good.”
(YP-3)

“If you’re going to make (the world) safe you’ve got to make them feel OK...You have to ask them what worries them and fix that.” (MX-2)



Children's Safety Survey – Institute of Child Protection Studies



What were the barriers to children and young people seeking help?



Overall, 49% of participants felt there were barriers to them seeking should they feel unsafe



57% of participants felt adults are too busy to help them



60% of participants felt adults don't care about them in situations like this



10% of participants were unsure if adults would know what to do





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Parish Examples



St Patrick's Parish - Kilmore



Engagement of Children in the Parish – Pauline Duff

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES



I have the right to express my views openly and honestly in all matters affecting me.

I have the responsibility to respect other people's views.



I have the right to speak up and seek help and support if I have been hurt or abused.

I have the responsibility to seek help for myself and others if they need it.

OUR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

We commit to making our Church a safe place for children and young people and protecting them from harm.



You are special and will always be welcome in our Church.

What you think and feel is important to us.

We will make sure our leaders and helpers understand their responsibilities to keep you safe.

FEEL SAFE AND BE SAFE AT OUR CHURCH



- YOU HAVE RIGHTS**
You have the right to feel safe and be safe from harm.
- YOU ARE VALUED & RESPECTED**
You have the right not to be hurt, spoken to rudely or made to feel uncomfortable.
- WE WILL PROTECT**
We will protect children and young people.
- WE WILL LISTEN & BELIEVE**
We will listen to children and young people and believe them.
- WE WILL RESPOND**
We will respond to matters of safety and harm.

IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE, PLEASE CONTACT:



A family member or a trusted person you feel safe talking to.

Police
000

kidshelpline
Anytime Any Reason
Kids Helpline
1800 551 800

AND THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT.

St Mary of the Cross Parish - Mordialloc and Aspendale



Children's Catechist Program – Carmel Barker



INTRODUCING CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES TO CATECHIST CLASS



ST MARY OF THE CROSS PARISH

–MORDIALLOC & ASPENDALE



Profile of Catechist class
Government & Private schools
Area
After school
Once a week – 1 hour



PROFILE

▶ Sacrament based-

Reconciliation, Eucharist, Confirmation

▶ Facilitators – WWC checks

▶ Class size



PRACTICE

- ▶ Past -5 years-implemented most Child safe guarding protocols
- ▶ Updated our contact information
- ▶ Parental Consent forms
 - drop off, collection of children, independent travel
- ▶ Attendance record – sign in and sign out sheets
- ▶ Parental acceptance of new protocols

UNDERSTANDINGS

Form states

The Parish of St Mary of the Cross is doing all we can to ensure that the children who attend catechist Classes have an enjoyable and safe experience

All our catechists have current WWV checks and we are following all Child Safeguarding and COVID safety recommendations.

- ▶ Covid = slow start to year and children enrolling
- ▶ Children already familiar with language of 'rights and responsibilities'
- ▶ School usage
- ▶ Language comfortable and known

IMPLEMENTATION

- ▶ First time – whole Group – more a talk fest
- ▶ Second time – Sacramental groups – more Interactive
- ▶ Beginning of year



PROCESS

Gather Children

- ▶ Explain similar to school – each has a right to feel safe and respected
- ▶ Used ‘Our Commitment to Young people’ resource from Professional Standards Unit
- ▶ Display poster [enlarged] or give out
- ▶ Brainstorm – what it feels like to feel safe.

Emphasise that this is how they have a right to feel here.



Questions

- ▶ What does it feel like when you feel unsafe / put down?
- ▶ How can we change that feeling?
- ▶ What can we do to change those feelings?
- ▶ Record answers on butcher paper / computer with display screen
- ▶ Need visual evidence of responses – value of each answer



RESPECT

- ▶ Ask children to define respect / to show an example of respect
- ▶ How would we see it in our group?
- ▶ Continually refer back to poster



RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

*[butcher paper, textas, paper strips,
display board.*

Brainstorm

- ▶ What is a right?
- ▶ What is a Responsibility?
- ▶ What are some we need for our class?
- ▶ Have you ever felt your rights weren't respected? -How did you feel?
- ▶ What could be done by leaders/you to change/help?
- ▶ Would you feel safe to tell me [leader] about it?



IF TIME

- ▶ Children partner and write slogans for group behaviours and attitudes
- ▶ Words on large sheet of paper – children add ideas and behaviours to them [Rights, Responsibilities, Respect, Safe]
- ▶ Emphasise that these attitudes will be the base for our class and referred back to
- ▶ Use posters or strips to make a display in our area [this emphasises the value of the children's ideas]
- ▶ Children will be given the two sided handout

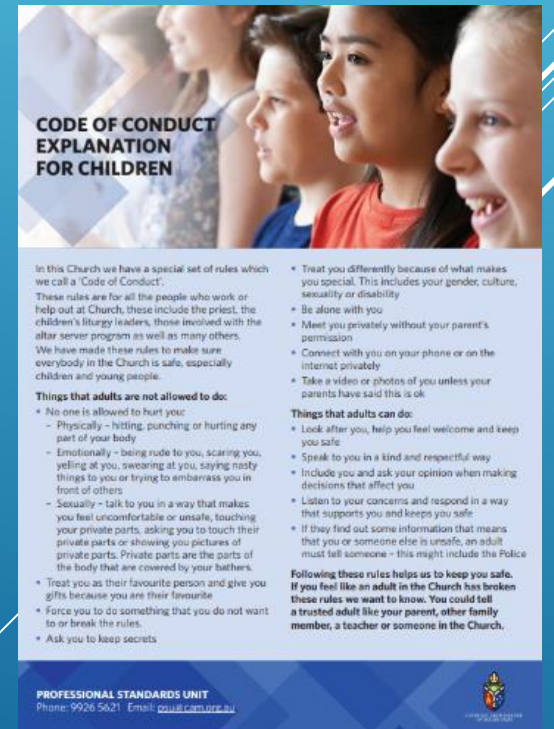


CONSIDERATIONS FOR OUR PROGRAM

- ▶ Our children take a few weeks to come - found we should do it about –early March rather than mid February.
- ▶ Reconciliation – usually a Term 4 Sacrament - need to consider doing it then for this group
- ▶ Send home 'Code of Conduct Explanation for Children with enrolment/ consent forms for parents early awareness

Resources

- ▶ Handouts from Professional standards Unit
- ▶ Code of Conduct Explanation for Children
- ▶ Our Commitment to Children and Young People
- ▶ Rights and Responsibilities



Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn & Deepdene, Surry Hills, Wattle Park

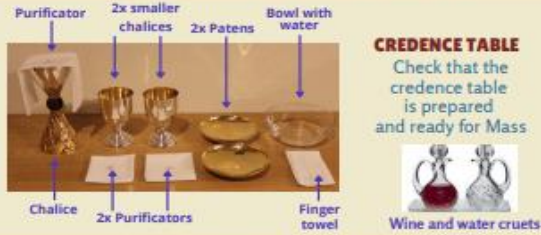


Altar Servers Program - Fr Trac Nguyen

ALTAR SERVER GUIDELINES

Parishes of Camberwell, Balwyn
Deepdene, Surrey Hills Wattle Park

ARRIVE 15 MINUTES BEFORE MASS



CREDENCE TABLE
Check that the credence table is prepared and ready for Mass



10 MINUTES BEFORE MASS

ROLES ALLOCATED

- Cross bearer
- Candle bearers
- Missal holder
- Altar setup



Dress in Robes

Ready for Mass



MASS STARTS – ENTRANCE PROCESSION



LITURGY OF THE WORD – Prayers, Readings and Gospel

Missal Holder



Holding the Missal

Everyone stands up for the Alleluia

Candle Bearers



Candle bearers take candles to either side of the lectern



OFFERTORY PROCESSION

People sit down and the collection starts



Candle Bearers

- Walk slowly with candles to the back of the church.
- Lead the Offertory Procession back to the Sanctuary.

At Camberwell, Balwyn, Deepdene & Surrey Hills Wattle Park Parishes we hold the care, safety and well being of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility of our parishes.

ASSIST THE PRIEST DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS



ALTAR SET UP

Bring the chalice, cups and Purificators to the Altar



Accompany the priest to the Sanctuary steps
Receive the gifts and carry them to the Altar



Gifts are brought to the Altar
A server stands next to the Altar ready to assist the priest



If either cruets are on the credence table
Take water cruet from credence table to the altar



Washing Priest Hand

Bring the water bowl and finger towel to the priest

Return cruets to the credence table

MASS CONTINUES WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST



After Communion, check that all items have been returned to the credence table



MASS ENDS – RECESSIONAL PROCESSION



Hang robe back in the wardrobe



Ask questions at any time???

ALTAR SERVER COORDINATORS

Kerry Hersom and Mieke Lochrie and Fr Trac Nguyen
Contact email : cbdparish@cam.org.au

“You get your own seat with a good view”



After many months of separation and being unable to celebrate the Eucharist together, our parish communities are gradually returning to share our faith journey. Some parishioners have already noticed changes that have occurred at our weekend Masses. Their delight was reflected in their comments, ‘It has been so many years since we’ve seen Altar Servers at this Church.’

Having only recently commenced in his role, newly trained Altar Server, Caleb, is happy to share his experience of serving and his encouragement to those who want to join him:

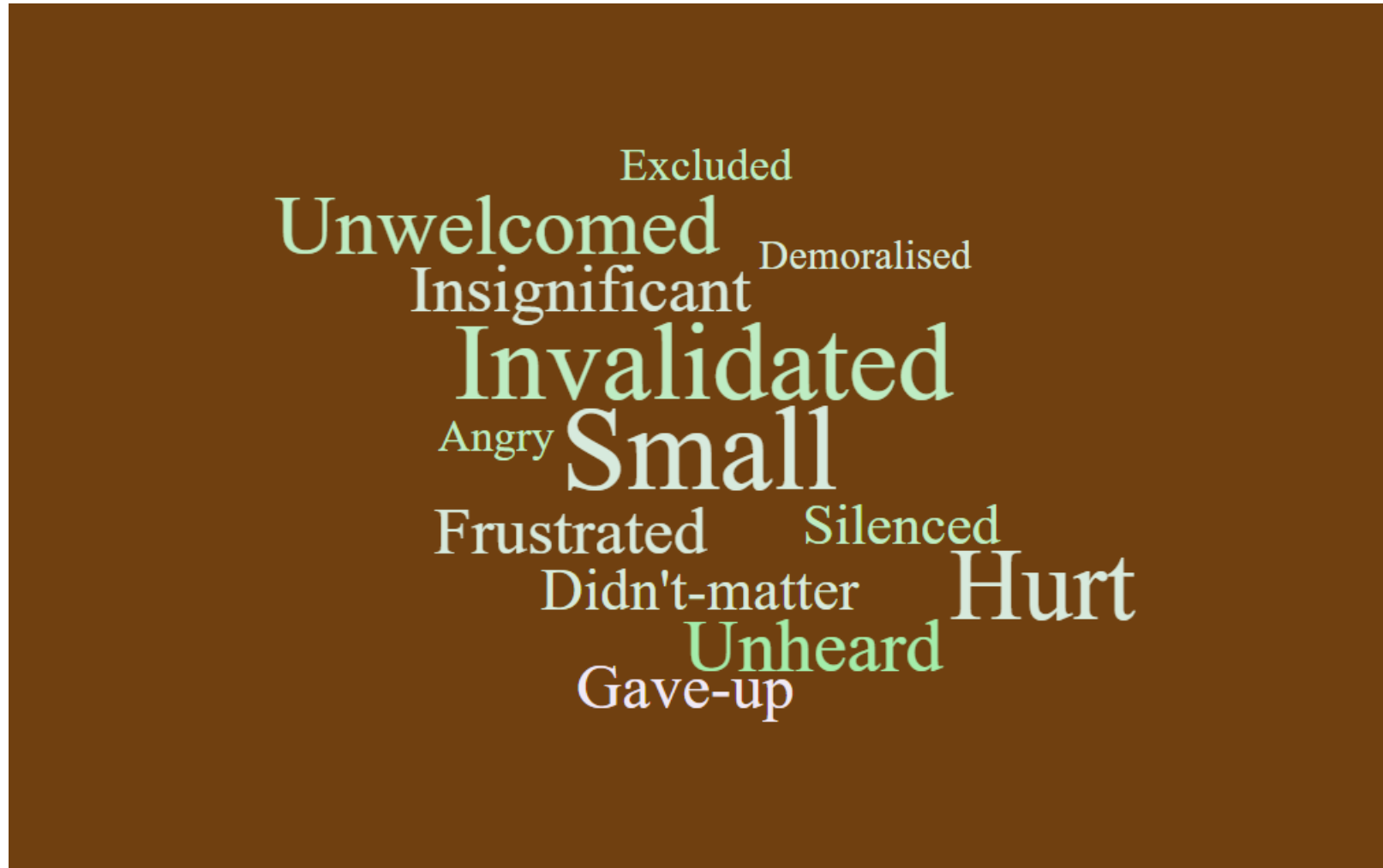
‘I think it’s really fun when you get the right help. And my first time I was really nervous but it was really fun... it’s really fun being an Altar Server because you get to help out during Mass. You get to see the Priest and readers close up. You get your own seat with a good view. I really like the robes and sash that you wear and you can easily enjoy Mass being an Altar Server.’

—Kerry Hersom and Mieke Lochrie, Altar Server Coordinators of Camberwell, Balwyn Deepdene, Surrey Hills Wattle Park Parishes



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When you felt unheard as a child



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When you felt heard as a child

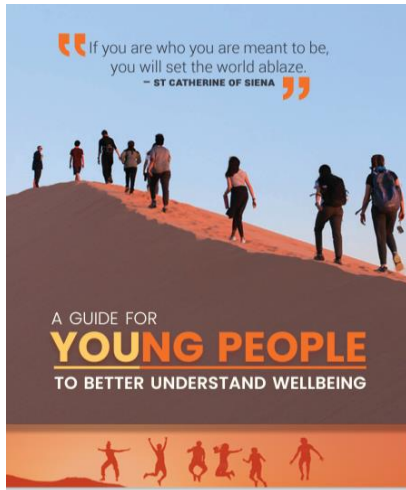


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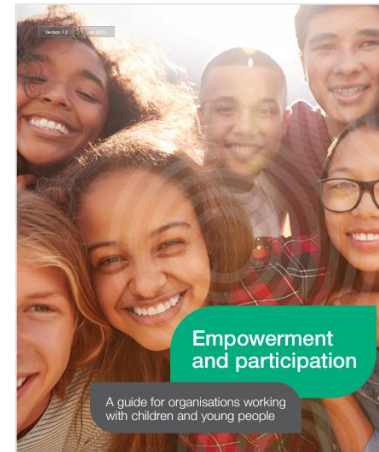
Further resources



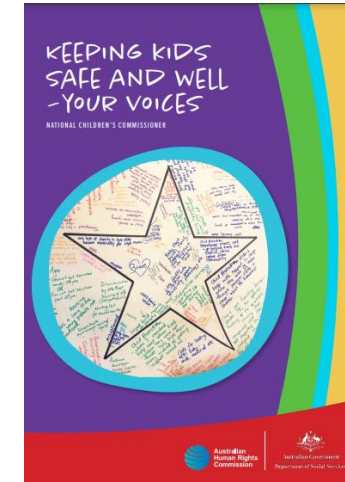
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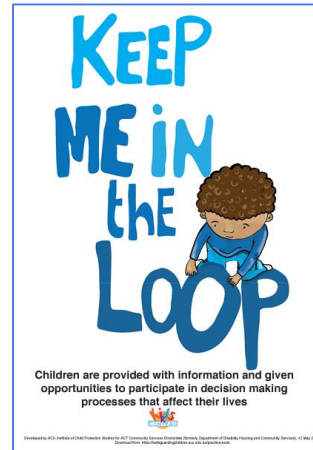
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Professional Standards Unit

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