

# Professional Development Program 2026

FOR DIOCESAN LEADERSHIP



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF  
WOLLONGONG

# Safeguarding in the Diocese of Wollongong

As leaders in the Catholic Diocese of Wollongong, **at the centre of each of our vocations and professions is Christ**. In coming together for these professional development opportunities, we demonstrate our shared commitment to go forward together with hope and humility as bearers of Christ's Love.

This professional development program is designed to provide diocesan leadership with a platform from which to delve into important topics, and gain a better understanding of relevant safeguarding practices in a variety of contexts. The workshops and sessions offered this year cover the broad scope of safeguarding, namely across both civil and Church environments, and importantly looking at individuals, workplaces and communities holistically.

As we embark on the journey of further professional development, let us seek the guidance, patience and Wisdom of our Heavenly Father, utilising the talents, skills and gifts that He has given us to ensure **the safety and wellbeing of all His children**.



## Safeguarding commitment statement

The Catholic Diocese of Wollongong is unwavering in its commitment to the safety and wellbeing of all persons in the diocese, in particular children, young people and vulnerable persons. This is at the heart of everything we do.

Every person has the right to be informed, heard, respected, empowered and to feel safe.

As a diocese, and as individuals, we have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse, and we commit to being safe people in the lives of all persons in the diocese, in particular children, young people and vulnerable persons, and to work together with them to create cultures that honour dignity, enrich wellbeing, and keep them safe.

## Acknowledgment of Country

We begin by acknowledging the Country upon which we call the home of the Diocese of Wollongong. We honour the Traditional Custodians of this land—the Dharawal, Tharawal, Gundungurra and Yuin nations—who have, over millennia, cared for and worked in harmony with our common home. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of recognition and reconciliation.

# Welcome to the 2026 Professional Development Program!

We are pleased to offer you a variety of engaging opportunities, both online and in-person, for your continued professional development, as part of our Diocesan commitment to develop and maintain safe environments for everyone.

The Bishop has **mandated** that all Diocesan leaders and other specified personnel must complete **at least 10 units** of Professional Development in the areas of professional standards and safeguarding **each calendar year**. In 2026, we are offering several half-day or full-day workshops presented by speakers and trainers from across Australia. Additionally, we will be hosting various 1-hour PD 'Lunchtime Sessions', open to members from all Pastoral Works.

Please see the calendars across pages 5-6 for further details. We ask you to read **the [workshop descriptions and lunchtime session descriptions on our website](#)** before enrolling in the Diocesan Workshops to ensure that the content of the workshop is valuable to your work and ministry. Whilst registration is required for the Diocesan Workshops, registration is not required to attend the PD 'Lunchtime Sessions'. Attendance will be recorded at the commencement of each session.

For **sector-specific professional development opportunities**, please see the People & Culture Office or the Safeguarding Office of your Pastoral Work.

## HOW TO REGISTER FOR A DIOCESAN WORKSHOP

Registrations are necessary to secure your place in a Diocesan Workshop. You can register for specific workshops via the link below. You will receive a confirmation email with the details of the workshops you have selected once you have completed the online registration form.

**Please add these details to your diary or calendar.** Links to 'add to calendar' are included in your registration confirmation email. You will also receive a reminder email 1-2 weeks prior to the scheduled training confirming session details and logistics.

**Please note:** You will be required to use your diocesan email address to register. Personal email addresses will not be accepted. We also kindly ask that you include your religious honorifics (if relevant) such as Fr, Dn, Sr etc. when providing your first name, and your post-nominal initials (if relevant) when providing your surname.

## WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM



If you need assistance, do not hesitate to contact the OPSS team at [training@dow.org.au](mailto:training@dow.org.au) or call us on **(02) 4222 2428**

### What if I am no longer able to attend a session I have registered for?

If you are no longer able to attend a Diocesan Workshop, please inform the Office of Professional Standards and Safeguarding (OPSS) by email (see above) as soon as possible, to allow for your registration to be transferred to someone else. We have limited capacity for each session and would like to allow for as many people to attend as possible.

## WHO IS REQUIRED TO SATISFY THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANDATE?

Please note, all people in positions of Executive Director, Director/Executive Manager, Clergy and Office of the Bishop staff have been automatically deemed as Diocesan leaders for the purposes of the Diocesan Leadership Professional Development Program. If you are unsure whether you have been deemed to be a Diocesan leader, please speak to your direct manager for clarification.

## NEW TO THE DIOCESE?

If you are new to the Diocese, it is highly recommended that you attend the Building Foundations workshop before registering for other workshops. The Building Foundations workshop covers the fundamental knowledge and expectations of those in positions of leadership pertaining to matters of safeguarding and legal compliance.

For details regarding applying for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL), please see our website.



## Training Focus Key

The below key provides some further information about the purpose and tone of a workshop or session. These labels have been applied to each workshop to indicate their intended focus and outcomes.

INDUCTION	REFRESHER	SKILLS BUILDING	COMMUNITY	WORKPLACE
Recommended/suggested training for new employees  (These trainings are open to existing employees as well)	Helpful training to recall important skills & knowledge from prior training or experience	Useful training to upskill & boost confidence in a certain area, topic, or skill set	Holistic training applicable to both personal & professional circumstances, enriching understanding of the broader community	Targeted training to support professional relationships, environments, outcomes & wellbeing

## LOCATIONS FOR WORKSHOPS

### Xavier Centre Conference Room

38 Harbour Street, Wollongong (on the Cathedral grounds, behind St Francis Xavier Cathedral)

### Zoom (ONLINE)

Session takes place online via Zoom (a unique Zoom meeting link will be provided to participants via email prior to the training)

## LOCATIONS FOR LUNCHTIME SESSIONS

### Xavier Centre Conference Room AND Online Livestream (Zoom)

Session takes place in-person but will be accessible online via livestream over Zoom (a unique Zoom meeting link will be made public to access the livestream)

# 2026 Diocesan Workshop Calendar

Please see our website for [workshop descriptions and presenter details](#)

DATE	TIME	WORKSHOP	PRESENTER	TRAINING FOCUS	LOCATION	UNITS
Tuesday 12 May	9:30am – 4:30pm	<b>Building Foundations</b>	Michelle Scobie, Integro Partners	INDUCTION REFRESHER	Xavier Centre Conference Room	10
Thursday 18 June	10:30am – 2pm	<b>Hazard Management &amp; Risk Assessment</b>	Cassandra Hayden, CatholicCare Wollongong	WORKPLACE SKILLS BUILDING REFRESHER	Xavier Centre Conference Room	6
Tuesday 21 July	10:30am – 3pm	<b>Cultural Learning Journey</b>	Tina McGhie, Curijo	COMMUNITY WORKPLACE	Xavier Centre Conference Room	8
Thursday 13 August	9:30am – 4:30pm	<b>Trauma Responsive Leadership – Self as Leader</b>	Rosemary Mackey, Blueknot Foundation	INDUCTION REFRESHER SKILLS BUILDING WORKPLACE	Xavier Centre Conference Room	10
Thursday 27 August	10:30am – 2pm	<b>*NEW*</b> <b>Diversity &amp; Vulnerability</b>	David Treanor, Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd	SKILLS BUILDING COMMUNITY WORKPLACE	Zoom (ONLINE)	6
Tuesday 8 September	10:30am – 2pm	<b>*NEW*</b> <b>Safely Navigating Conflict Dynamics</b>	Michelle Scobie, Integro Partners	REFRESHER SKILLS BUILDING WORKPLACE	Xavier Centre Conference Room	6
Tuesday 10 November	10:30am – 2pm	<b>*NEW*</b> <b>Navigating Today's Online World Safely</b>	Kendra Bosworth, Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd	INDUCTION SKILLS BUILDING COMMUNITY WORKPLACE	Zoom (ONLINE)	6

# 2026 PD ‘Lunchtime Sessions’ Calendar

Please see our website for [Lunchtime Session descriptions and presenter details](#)

DATE	TIME	SESSION	PRESENTER	TRAINING FOCUS	UNITS
Thursday 23 April	12:30pm – 1:30pm (Following OOB Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting)	<b>Professional Meets Pastoral (Understanding Safeguarding in DOW)</b>	Stefanie Kusters, OPSS	INDUCTION COMMUNITY WORKPLACE	2
Thursday 7 May	1pm – 2pm	<b>Psychosocial Hazards in the Workplace</b>	Marie lemma, Illume HR & Investigations	INDUCTION REFRESHER SKILLS BUILDING WORKPLACE	2
Tuesday 2 June	1:30pm – 2:30pm	<b>In Defence of Human Dignity: the Fight against Human Trafficking in Australia</b>	Carmel Shaw, ACRATH	COMMUNITY	2
Tuesday 4 August	1pm – 2pm	<b>Safeguarding Our Vision</b>	Dn Seth Harsh, DOW	INDUCTION COMMUNITY WORKPLACE	2
Thursday 29 October	1pm – 2pm	<b>Responsible Stewardship</b>	Jude Hennessy, ORE	COMMUNITY WORKPLACE	2
Thursday 19 November	1pm – 2pm	<b>Behind the Scenes of Safeguarding</b>	Asante Viswasam & the OPSS Team	REFRESHER SKILLS BUILDING WORKPLACE	2
Tuesday 8 December	11am – 12pm (Following OOB Bi-Monthly Staff Meeting)	<b>Our Legacy</b>	Bishop Brian G Mascord, Bishop of Wollongong	INDUCTION REFRESHER COMMUNITY WORKPLACE	2



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**OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL  
STANDARDS AND SAFEGUARDING**

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[training@dow.org.au](mailto:training@dow.org.au)

