1st Edition Newsletter

SAA Safeguarding Advisory Australia

STA Safeguarding Training Australia

Welcome to the first Safeguarding Advisory and Training Australia newsletter! As you may have heard, we have recently partnered as sister companies (Sam and I are not actual sisters, despite the ridiculous screen shot!!!) to align our advisory and training services across Australia.



Along with our amazing advisory and training team, we have been busy visiting most States and Territories this year, and are always keen to discuss ways we can support organisations, regardless of location.

We have taken the liberty of including you, our fellow safeguarders in our newsletter database, but please let us know if you wish to unsubscribe.

We aim to bring you a snappy update, and in the spirit of continuous improvement, please let us know if we are meeting your needs.

Liv and Sam xxxx

Our Soapbox



Why do Champion Networks often fail?

We see many forms and attempts at establishing and maintaining a safeguarding champion (or focal point, or designated lead) network across organisations.

The idea sounds promising, a group of passionate and skilled individuals, keen to disperse a child safeguarding lens more evenly across the organisation, and compliment and strengthen existing child safeguarding structures and resources.

But sadly, even with goodwill and initial resourcing, they often fail, fizzle out, become ineffective or organisations lose confidence.

Is the concept wrong, or are we setting them up to fail?

Read more . . .

Spotlight on Leading Practice



Valley Sport
Goulburn Valley Sports Assembly Inc.

About Valley Sport

Valley Sport is a Regional Sports Assembly supporting sport and active recreation across seven local government areas in Victoria. Its purpose is to connect communities through sport and active recreation, with a strong focus on building the capacity of local clubs through education, advice, resources, workshops and practical support.

What is the initiative?

Valley Sport has made significant progress in prioritising safeguarding across community sport in its region. Rather than leaving clubs to fend for themselves, Valley Sport has taken an active role in helping clubs understand what safeguarding means in practice and what they need to do.

This has included adopting and offering the Level Up Safe and Inclusive Clubs program to clubs for free, providing clubs with access to free webinars and podcast resources, and importantly, providing direct support and guidance through its project officers.

Valley Sport should be commended for the initiative it has shown. It has created practical pathways for clubs across different sports to access information, ask questions and get the support they need to strengthen safeguarding.

What is the impact?

Valley Sport's approach demonstrates the value of combining existing resources with one-on-one, practical support. Project officers can help clubs navigate what can sometimes feel like a complex area – answering tricky questions, directing them to the right resources and helping them identify what areas they need to strengthen.

Importantly, clubs are engaging. They are connecting, having conversations about safeguarding and looking more closely at their own practices. Some have also gone on to engage directly with the Level Up program to ensure they have the systems, policies and practices in place to better safeguard children and young people.

This is where Valley Sport's approach is really making a difference: **turning safeguarding information into action at club level and helping community clubs progressively move the needle on child safety.**

Training Reflection



Seanna Dempsey

Team Leader
Social Impact & Policy

City of Stirling
City of Choice

What training did you complete?

After working in child safeguarding for well over a year, I did STA's Child Safety Officer training and wish I had done it way sooner.

The course gives a really comprehensive overview of all things child safeguarding, and is well paced to allow sufficient learning and exploration for each topic.

What were some highlights?

The facilitators were all excellent and able to present some pretty complex and sometimes sensitive content in an accessible way.

I found the case studies and real-life examples that were used throughout particularly helpful in understanding how child safeguarding challenges can appear in the real world, and making the course theory feel more relevant.

The course also provided practical tools and templates to support organisation implementation and improvement.

Key takeouts?

It was really beneficial to hear from other course participants about their work and how safeguarding was being implemented in other states and different contexts.

Overall the course has really deepened my knowledge in this space and given me much more confidence to advocate for and progress child safeguarding improvements in my own organisation and community.

Facilitator Profiles:

Sam



Sam's story:

Sam's career started on the frontline as a youth worker, later moving into government roles, and then cutting her teeth in the child safety space as the Senior Advisor to the ACT Children and Young People Commissioner.
After moving to Victoria and continuing to work across the community services sector, Sam took the leap into consulting in 2017. Since then, she has dedicated her work to helping organisations across Australia shift policy, practice and culture to better safeguarding children and young people.

Liv



Liv's background:

Liv has worked as a frontliner and manager in a range of children's programs – gymnastics, OOSH, arts, youth centres, disability programs and early education. After working in national safeguarding roles (operations, quality and practice), she moved into the safeguarding consultancy and training world in 2019. Training and education is a passion, particularly andragogy (helping adults learn), sticky learning, and her specific style of discovery-based learning – Liv's favourite role is helping others build their safeguarding capacity.

Legislation Updates



National – We saw an announcement on the 20th August 2026 regarding national changes to the WWCC schemes – more information

National & VIC - An overview of changes to national and Victorian child safety laws as of the 12th August 2026 - more information

VIC – We saw changes to the WWCC and Reportable Conduct Scheme commence on the 28th July 2026 – more information

QLD – We saw the Reportable Conduct Scheme commence on the 1st July 2026 – more information

NT – We saw Child Protection legislation strengthened on 21st July 2026 – more information

What's New!

Uncomfortable. Webinar Series

Webinar 2: The 10%

Webinar 2: The 10%
15th OCT 2026 | 1.00pm - 3.30pm AEDT

Research and statistics tell us that up to 10% of cases of child sexual abuse involve a female perpetrator.

In this webinar, Safeguarding Training Australia will facilitate a conversation with survivor advocate, Kade Hunter, as featured in the ABC Podcast – The Favourite.

Book now!



Child Safety Officer Training

Book now!

Child Safety Officer Training

Child safety officers and representatives will gain a thorough understanding of key responsibilities and leading practice examples of implementing child safety standards.

This training is delivered in small groups, providing networking opportunities with like minded professionals. Cost: $1500 (ex GST).

Recommended Readings



Why we should talk about non-recent instead of historic abuse | NSPCC Learning

'Global reckoning for big tech': Australia to force social media giants to allow users to opt out of algorithms

Loving your child when they are different | Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission

Sharing school photos and videos in the age of AI and deepfakes | eSafety Commissioner

Safeguarding Advisory Australia

Safeguarding Training Australia