



# Graduate Certificate in Safeguarding Children and Young People

**The Graduate Certificate in Safeguarding Children and Young People is a proactive response to the current moral, social and political imperatives to secure the safety and wellbeing of all young people. It is designed to provide the opportunity for participants to develop knowledge and understandings of contemporary issues and responses to safeguarding children and young people, exploring the conditions and factors that facilitate or impede child-safe environments.**

#### Campus

National (multi-mode)

#### Duration

Up to 2 years (part-time)

#### Contact

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CRICOS registered provider: 00004G

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## OVERVIEW

The course draws on research undertaken by ACU's Institute of Child Protection Studies (ICPS), as well as expertise from across the University's four faculties and from its external partners. It is designed for graduates currently volunteering, working or seeking employment in areas that involve working with children and young people or in areas that address the legislative, regulatory and governance frameworks that regard their safety. It is for those who want to develop professional knowledge and understanding in creating and sustaining positive and preventative cultures and practices, and in responding effectively to the abuse of children and young people and the impact on families, friends and colleagues.

## STUDENT OUTCOMES

Graduates should be able to:

- identify causes and the broad range of practices of identification, intervention and assessment of risks of the abuse of children and young people
- understand the principles, laws, regulatory frameworks, policies and procedures for safeguarding children and young people
- analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of organisational policies and practices, including child-centred participatory processes and the needs of particular groups of children and young people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, culturally and linguistically diverse people, and those with disabilities
- generate strategies and design governance frameworks and action plans that develop, monitor and maintain a culture of safety for children and young people.

## ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must have completed an undergraduate degree in any discipline or equivalent relevant professional experience.

*Recognition of prior learning (RPL) and credit transfer are available at ACU.*

## COURSE STRUCTURE

Students must complete 40 credit points from the schedule of unit offerings to qualify for the Graduate Certificate in Safeguarding Children and Young People.

## UNITS

This course offers a range of units developed by the Faculties of Education and Arts, Health Sciences, Law and Business, and Theology and Philosophy to provide a range of pathways for students and a broad focus that meets the needs of the wider community.

### Safeguarding Children: Ethics, Values and Practices

This unit is informed by a knowledge base of the risk factors, protective factors, and the prevalence rates of abuse and other harms to children. It addresses the context, values and beliefs related to supporting and protecting children and young people in organisational contexts and in the broader community within participatory, proactive and preventative frameworks.

### Safeguarding Children: Implications for Professional Practice

The development of a strategic and sustainable plan for creating child-safe environments within organisations/institutions is critical to support child flourishing and safety. This unit synthesises the development of knowledge, skills, attributes, dispositions, capacities and professional practices. A final project will be presented that is context specific and reflects individual perspectives on current theory, policy and practices in safeguarding young people in Catholic and other organisations/institutions.

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## SAMPLE PROGRAM MAP

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
<b>Year 1</b>	
Semester 1	Safeguarding Children: Ethics, Values and Practices
Semester 2	Safeguarding Children: Legal Frameworks and Governance
<b>Year 2</b>	
Semester 1	The Theology of Childhood: Close to the Mystery of God
Semester 2	Safeguarding Children: Implications for Professional Practice

### Safeguarding Children: Policy in Context

It is imperative that people working in human services have an understanding of the legal and welfare issues that shape contemporary approaches to working with children and young people. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has exposed the systemic problems of poor policy, poor management, and inadequate processes to protect children. This unit provides a critical analysis of law and welfare and suggests ways that services might operate to ensure the safety of children and young people.

### Safeguarding Children: The Child's Rights in Practice

This unit will examine local and international mandates, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1989), and will explore strategic approaches to actualising an institutional culture of child safety through voice-inclusive practice. The rights of all children and young people will be considered, including a focus on children and young people who are marginalised.

### Safeguarding Children: Child Welfare Context and Policy

This unit will provide students with the opportunity to critically examine child welfare history, policies and institutions. It will provide students with a critical socio-historical context for understanding the development of child welfare and child protection policies in Australia and internationally; the key issues that surround policy development and implementation; and concepts such as social control with a particular focus on

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child welfare. The unit will cover specific policy and practice developments in child abuse prevention and early intervention, and the 'out of home' care system: fostering, residential care, shared care, adoption.

### Safeguarding Children: Legal Frameworks and Governance

This unit provides students with an understanding of the legal framework relating to the protection of children and young people. Students should be able to design and implement codes of conduct and guidelines which clearly identify the duties and responsibilities of all employees, volunteers and clients of the organisation. Students should also be able to effectively investigate and report allegations of abuse.

### The Theology of Childhood: Close to the Mystery of God

The Catholic theological tradition recognises the intrinsic, unsurpassable value of children's lives. This unit explores the constructs of childhood from sociological, anthropological, cultural, psychological, historical and philosophical perspectives. The unit's major focus will be on the nature of childhood from a Christian perspective, developing a rich theology of childhood. Participants will be required to bring this knowledge into critical dialogue with their own belief stance, and assess its implications for safeguarding the wellbeing of children and developing an appropriate culture in Catholic organisations/institutions.

### Safeguarding Children: Risk Awareness, Responses and Mitigation

This unit will provide information and knowledge about identifying risks of abuse to children and young people within organisations and external environments. It will focus on developing the skills required to deal appropriately with such issues as they arise through hands-on workshops to practise effective responses and the skills to address potential risks. The unit will also explore preventive and protective strategies that participants will be able to apply to their particular organisational setting.

### Safeguarding Children: Education and Prevention

The overarching aim of the unit is to develop knowledge and understanding of the specifics of educating children and young people about sexuality and respectful relationships, thereby assisting in their awareness to seek help if necessary. It focuses on implementing education and training strategies to safeguard children and young people and prevent abuse. The unit will provide initial training for participants in the learning and developmental needs of children and young people and the skills to guide and enable children and young people to develop their own strategies to prevent, manage and seek help when confronted with risk situations.

### FURTHER STUDY

The Graduate Certificate in Safeguarding Children and Young People provides a pathway for further study in higher degree programs at a postgraduate level.