Walking the Road Together:

A Safeguarding Journey Across Australian Cultures

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INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDING CONFERENCE | JUNE 2026

Agenda

Introduce our three different dioceses

Explore Safeguarding in multicultural contexts

Practical ways to empower safeguarding in cultures

Diocese of Sandhurst

Diocese of Wagga Wagga

The ‘Yarn’ Circles

- **An opportunity to sit with community and Feel Safe. Be Seen. Be Heard.**
- **Aunty Mary explains that circles:**

“Help welcome diverse new cultures by connecting through shared Empathy”

- **Important for new cultures to feel connected and understood with community.**

Building Safety Across Cultures

The Challenge of Diversity

Welcoming diverse global cultures enriches the Church.

Empathy and Displacement

Arriving migrants and refugees often experience the trauma of displacement.

Cultural Vulnerability

Different cultures experience trauma and power dynamics differently. Inclusion reduces hidden risks.

A Commitment to Safety

Building an inclusive community where everyone is seen, valued, and profoundly safe.

Interculturality – Embracing Diversity

Bringing diverse cultures into dialogue and our ecclesial life

Safeguarding & Theology

A new formative Safeguarding Culture is required (Zacharias, 2023).

Ecclesial life must be adaptive and context-aware (Lennan, 2023)

Fratelli Tutti and *Lumen Gentium* call the Church to communion and synodality

Intercultural Competence (ICC) in Practice

Develop awareness, knowledge, sensitivity and respect

Practical, reflective action in Ministry and Safeguarding

IMPLEMENTING Intercultural Competence (ICC)

Parishes-Schools-Church agencies

[Modified from Sperry (2015), Limbrick & Mudge, (2019)]

ICC COMPONENT	IMPLEMENTATION	*FOUNDATIONS-BARRIERS-ENABLERS*
Attitude		
Knowledge		
Awareness		
Sensitivity		
Action		

From Compliance to Culture

Understanding the Catholic Context

- Understand language, theology, and culture
- Catholic teachings can both enable and challenge safeguarding

Engaging People, Not Just Systems

- Safeguarding is a people challenge as much as a systems one
- Critical partners can help to embed change

Acceptance vs Endorsement

- Acceptance means policies are followed
- Endorsement means Safeguarding is understood, valued and embedded

The realities of our Church

Metropolitan

Regional

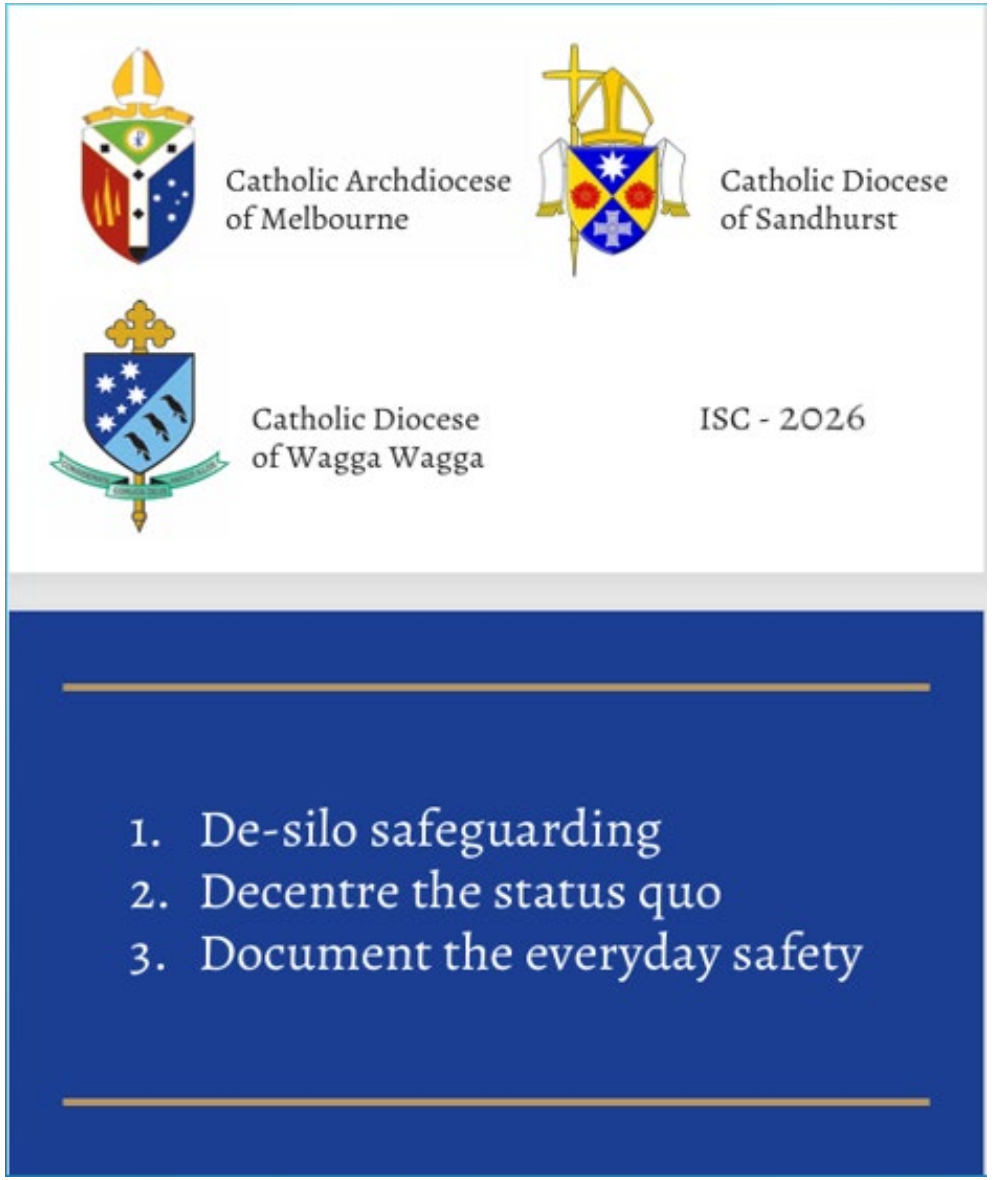
Rural

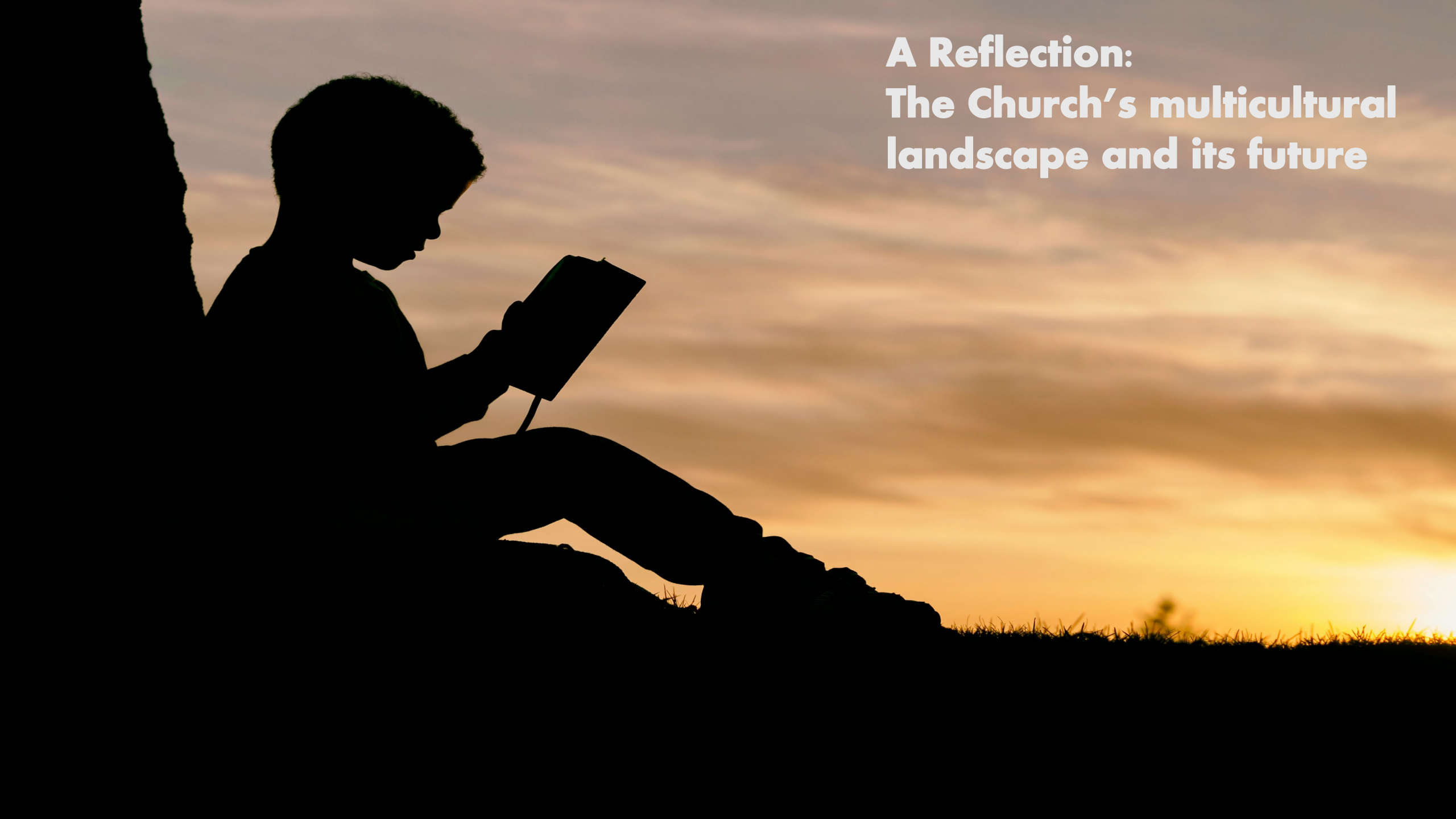
Key Safeguarding Concepts

1. De-Silo;
Work together from the beginning so safeguarding is part of every activity.

2. Decenter the Status Quo;
Make safeguarding accessible to everyone by removing language, cultural, and other barriers.

3. Document;
Record concerns clearly and consistently so people can be protected and supported.





A Reflection:
The Church's multicultural landscape and its future

A final thought for you all

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A Farewell; Thank you!

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