

Child Safety Newsletter




Child Safety Week & R U OK? Day 2025 at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College by John Ryan - Deputy Principal - Wellbeing - Students and Staff

7 – 14 September 2025

Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College is proud to partner with the **Diocese of Sale** and **Diocese of Sale Catholic Education Ltd (DOSCEL)** to promote **Child Safety Week 2025**, coinciding with:

- **National Child Protection Week (NAPCAN):** 7 – 13 September
- **Safeguarding Sunday:** 14 September
- **R U OK? Day:** Thursday, 11 September







This year's theme for **Child Safety Week** is:

 **"Every Conversation Matters – Shifting Conversations to Action"**

This theme encourages our community to engage in open, active conversations that support the safety and wellbeing of every young person.

Child Safety Week College Initiatives

Throughout the week, the College will be supporting and promoting this important initiative through the following actions:

-  **Briefing with Bishop Greg's Video:** Shared with staff on Monday, **15 September**
-  **Posters** displayed in every classroom and key areas across the College
-  **Social Media Tiles** published on the College's Facebook and Instagram pages
-  **Specialised Email Footer** used by staff during the week
-  **Parent Resources** distributed via SchoolTV
-  **Health and PE Classes** (Years 7–9): Delivery of a **DOSCEL-approved Health & Safety lesson**





R U OK? Day – Thursday, 11 September 2025

This national day of action encourages all Australians to connect and start a conversation that could change a life.

🚩 *While R U OK? Day is on 11 September, its message is relevant every day.*

We're encouraging all staff and students to make a habit of checking in on each other – because *every conversation really does matter.*

College Activities for R U OK? Day:

-  **RU OK? Posters** placed around key areas of the College
-  **R U OK? Presentation** delivered during the day
-  **Wristbands** distributed to every student
-  **Staff Dress Code:** Wear a *splash of yellow* to show support

Every Conversation Matters: MMCRC Marks Child Safety Week & R U OK? Day

Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College recently joined schools across the Diocese of Sale in recognising **Child Safety Week 2025**, held from 7 – 14 September. The week coincided with **National Child Protection Week**, **Safeguarding Sunday**, and **R U OK? Day** on Thursday, 11 September.

The theme for this year's Child Safety Week, *"Every Conversation Matters – Shifting Conversations to Action"*, was a timely reminder of the important role we all play in supporting the safety and wellbeing of young people.

Throughout the week, the College community embraced a range of initiatives. Staff viewed a video message from Bishop Greg, and classrooms and shared spaces were decorated with posters promoting the theme. Students in Years 7–9 also participated in a DOSCEL-approved Health and PE lesson, designed to highlight practical strategies for wellbeing and safety.

R U OK? Day fell on a student-free day this year, so the College celebrated the occasion with students on the following day. The message remained the same: encouraging staff and students alike to check in with one another and have meaningful conversations that could change a life. The College was decorated with R U OK? posters, wristbands were distributed to students, and a presentation helped to spark discussions around the importance of connection. Staff showed their support by wearing a splash of yellow, reinforcing the powerful reminder that asking "Are you OK?" should be part of our everyday interactions.

Adding to the spirit of the day, a team of generous staff rolled up their sleeves to bake over 700 cookies, which were shared across the College community. This simple but heartfelt gesture became a powerful symbol of care and togetherness, reminding everyone that small acts of kindness can have a big impact.

While Child Safety Week and R U OK? Day were marked with specific activities, their messages reach far beyond a single date in the calendar. They are ongoing commitments that shape the culture of MMCRC – a culture inspired by the example of Mary MacKillop, who taught us to never see a need without doing something about it.

As a community, we are reminded that every conversation matters. By engaging openly and acting with compassion, we help ensure that MMCRC remains a place where all young people can thrive in safety and confidence.



Child Safety Week at Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College (from a cultural lens) / Cultural Safety



Child Safety Week is a reminder of our shared responsibility to ensure that every student feels safe, valued, and respected when they come to school. Safety is not only about physical wellbeing but also about creating an environment where students' cultural identities are recognised and celebrated.

At Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College, we acknowledge that our students come from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, each with unique traditions, stories, and experiences. As a school community, we are committed to making sure that every young person knows they belong here. A safe school means that no student should feel isolated or judged because of their culture, language, or heritage. Instead, they should be empowered to share their identity proudly and know it is respected.

Being safe at school extends beyond the classroom walls. It includes travelling to and from school safely, making positive and respectful choices online, and looking out for one another as members of our community. True safety also means cultural safety—accepting and understanding the differences of others so that everyone feels supported in this environment.

When students feel seen and valued for who they are, they can learn with confidence and thrive. Child Safety Week invites us to strengthen our promise: that Mary MacKillop Catholic Regional College is a place where every child feels safe, supported, and free to be themselves.

Promoting a Culturally Safe School

To create a genuinely safe and inclusive environment, staff can actively promote cultural safety through the following practices:

Acknowledge and Respect Diversity: Actively recognise and value the cultural backgrounds, traditions, and stories of all students.

Model Inclusive Language: Use respectful and inclusive language that reflects acceptance and understanding of differences.

Create Representation: Ensure teaching materials, displays, and resources reflect the diversity of the student body.

Encourage Voice: Provide opportunities for students from different backgrounds to share their perspectives, ensuring their voices are heard and respected.

Connect Safety and Culture: Remind students that being safe includes more than physical safety — it also means cultural safety, where differences are respected and everyone feels they belong.

Challenge Bias: Actively address stereotypes, discrimination, or exclusion when they arise.

Celebrate Together: Acknowledge cultural events and significant days, using them as opportunities to learn and build respect across the school.



Mary MacKillop Catholic
Regional College
South Gippsland

Child Safety

You can talk
with.....



Principal
John Freeman



**Deputy Principal
Child Safety Officer**
John Ryan



Wellbeing Leaders
Year 7
Jess Stein



Year 8
Stephen Ross Bryant



**Student Engagement
Leader**
Maydia Parry



**Pastoral Care
Leader**
Chris Spencer



Wellbeing Leaders
Year 9
Ben Stein



Year 10
Melinda Stephan



School Counsellors
Rhiannon Le Busque



Kathy Williams



**Learning Adjustment
Leader**
Erica Masters



**Cultural Liaison
Officer**
Hannah Collocott



**Compliance
Officer**
Jenny Damon



Wellbeing Leaders
Year 11
Kate Dwyer



Year 12
Cade Maskell

MMCRC Counselling

To book an appointment contact your
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