



**MONTHLY MEMO**  
**July 2023**

July began with the Operations Team (Transition and Shared Services) travelling to Wagga for one day with all the Presentation Sisters and one day with the Planning Group as we continue to work towards alternative canonical governance and the adoption of more shared services. On site meeting days have also occurred this month with the Sisters of Our Lady of Sion in Melbourne and Presentation Sisters Queensland in Brisbane and, of course, we are still employing Zoom technology!

It has been satisfying to be able to share a service this month between a country service partner with a couple of Sisters in Sydney and a second country-city service partner with a Health & Well-Being Coordinator in Sydney. While the Sisters from Lismore Presentation Sisters living in Sydney are very well looked after, they are now able to call on a local Coordinator from the Wagga Presentation Sisters if they have any worries or need local assistance. This is truly what Emerging Futures envisioned for shared services and it is really rewarding to see this development.

The beginning of July saw us reach the end of the Financial Year and we couldn't help but look back a little on the year that was. Emerging Futures has experienced remarkable growth servicing the needs of our Service Partners and now has 30 'workers' on our 'books'. This is a tripling in size since the corresponding period last year and we now have employees in five states of Australia. This rapid growth, while pleasing, has also created the need for us to look internally at both our human and IT systems and how they will need to be adapted going forward. We are most certainly on the journey out of 'start-up' phase towards long-term sustainability.

### **Safeguarding and Professional Standards**

As religious institutes join Emerging Futures, one of the areas to be considered is that of Safeguarding and Professional Standards. When an institute no longer has a leader and leadership team, it does not have the capacity to manage Redress, civil claims and Safeguarding.

Since August 2021, EFCL has engaged Sheree Limbrick to provide Safeguarding assistance when required. Sheree is the founder of SLK Advisory and a skilled human services professional with more than 15 years' experience in senior executive leadership roles across a number of community service organisations, including most recently as inaugural Chief Executive Officer of Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (2017-2021). Sheree assisted in the development and implementation of EFCL's Safeguarding Policy and Code of Conduct, both of which are available for adoption by service partners. Sheree consults with our religious institutes, offers guidance with policies and procedures and audit preparation and provides tailored and appropriate training for compliance with the NCSS standards.

Earlier this year, Emerging Futures Collaborative Limited (EFCL) partnered with Simon Davies and Safeguarding Services. This relationship enables EFCL to broker Professional Standards support for religious institutes going forward. Safeguarding Services *provides specialist training, investigative, and advisory services to organisations that have a duty of care to safeguard children, young people, vulnerable adults, and people with disabilities from abuse.* As a former Australian Federal Police detective, Simon Davies is a highly accomplished and nationally awarded investigator with over 20 years of investigative and advisory experience. He is accomplished in undertaking highly sensitive, secret and complex investigations in the criminal, civil and canon law arenas. Simon provides services to a number of religious institutes and dioceses around Australia. Safeguarding Services is especially adept at providing assistance with the management of National Redress Scheme RFI processing and with outsourcing professional standards functions and claims management.

Safeguarding Services will provide the following services to EFCL Service Partners:

- Receive calls from complainants and manage complaints.
- Provide safeguarding and professional standards advice to members.
- Assist members with the management of civil abuse claims.
- Assist members with the management of National Redress Scheme applications.
- Provide advice concerning civil and canonical professional standards investigations to members.

Safeguarding Services has created a dedicated telephone number for EFCL Service Partners. Religious Institutes personnel can call this number to ask for advice and the number can be placed on the religious institute's website so that calls from victims, survivors or complainants go directly to Safeguarding Services. EFCL acts as a broker for the relationship between each religious institute and Safeguarding Services should a service partner elect to subscribe to this service for a small annual cost.

As well as these options for religious institute service partners, EFCL also manages third party arrangements that some service partners have in place with other religious institutes or with dioceses or archdioceses. All in all, EFCL is pleased to be able to offer a range of alternatives to manage Redress, civil claims and Safeguarding compliance into the future.

### **National Zoom Event**

You know that we have a Zoom event coming up on November 7 for anyone who is interested in participating. As I work on the content of the Zoom in coming weeks, I invite you to nominate any areas of Emerging Futures about which you would like to know more. Just send me an email at [sharon.price@efcl.org.au](mailto:sharon.price@efcl.org.au) and put in a few words about the subject of interest to you, whether it be a service we offer, a firsthand account of involvement of a leader or a member, or just a question about EFCL in general. All ideas welcome!

### **Dates to diarise:**

**Tuesday November 7, 2023:** An EFCL Zoom event for all interested participants from 11am-1pm AEDT.

**Monday-Tuesday April 22-23, 2024,** two-day conference at Treacy Centre, **Melbourne.**

**Monday-Tuesday May 13-14, 2024,** two-day conference at MMP, North **Sydney.**

Brad Hannagan, CEO

Sharon Price rsm, Transition Manager

28 July 2023