

## - MEDIA RELEASE -

25 June 2026

### **International Safeguarding Conference, Rome — 16–19 June 2026**

Australia's contribution to the 2026 International Safeguarding Conference, held at the Pontifical Gregorian University under the theme *"One Commitment, Many Contexts: Safeguarding Across Cultures,"* included presentations by safeguarding practitioners, faith leaders, academics and survivors, to over 300 delegates from around the world.

The conference explored safeguarding through the lens of interculturality, with particular attention to communities with significant migrant populations. Sessions were underpinned by the core principles of transparency, accountability and compliance, and for the first time incorporated regional online working groups supported by the IADC Blended Learning app. The final day featured the Safeguarding Research Lab, showcasing international research and poster presentations.

Australia again sent a substantial delegation, drawn from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Dioceses, Religious Institutes and Australian Catholic Safeguarding Limited (ACSL). Consistent, with recent years, His Excellency the Honourable Keith Pitt, Australian Ambassador to the Holy See joined Australian delegates at the conference, underlining the diplomatic as well as ecclesial significance of the gathering.

The conference reaffirmed ACSL's role as the national body coordinating Australia's safeguarding standards and its growing international profile, strengthening ties with global safeguarding networks ahead of future ISC engagement.

PHOTO SUPPLIED: Australian delegates with His Excellency the Honourable Keith Pitt, Australian Ambassador to the Holy See.