

# Child and Adult Safeguarding Commitment Statement

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*The Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart are actively committed to fostering communities and a culture of safeguarding that recognises and upholds the dignity and rights of all people. We have zero tolerance of child and adult abuse. We believe that all people have the right to be safe and respected. We commit to establishing a safe environment and supportive relationships for all with whom we have contact. We make the following safeguarding commitments:*

**We commit** to a zero tolerance for abuse, harm, or exploitation.

**We commit** to our ongoing learning from the First Peoples of our countries.

**We commit** to creating a safe physical and online environment, where all people are respected, and their rights are upheld.

**We commit** to plan, organise and review activities involving children and vulnerable people, proactively considering potential and actual risks, and addressing any identified risk by reducing or eliminating the risk wherever possible.

**We commit** to a culture of safeguarding. Everyone under the auspices of our Congregation, including our leadership, our members, our staff, and volunteers, are responsible for creating and maintaining a safe culture for all children and adults.

**We commit** to the continual development of our workplace participants through their education and understanding of child and adult safeguarding.

**We commit** to having safeguarding policies, which are regularly reviewed.

**We commit** to having processes to sensitively respond to allegations and disclosures of child and adult abuse and reporting to the appropriate authorities within a timely manner.

**We commit** to doing all we can to ensure that children, adults, families, and communities are informed, participate, and are involved in decision making regarding themselves.

**We commit** to equity, promoting diversity and upholding justice for the most vulnerable within our community, including children and adults who identify as Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander, Māori, Pasifika, or Native Peruvians. This same commitment is made to people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with diverse sexuality and people with a disability.

**We commit** to an effective Safeguarding Complaints Handling Policy and Reporting Procedure which is publicly available. Children, adults, and families are encouraged to communicate their concerns or suggestions for how we may improve our engagement with all whom we have contact.

***For more information or to raise a concern, please contact the Safeguarding Co-ordinator on PH: 0488 041 015***

