

# Safeguarding Commitment Statement

The Mary MacKillop Spirituality Ministry is 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 for 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:**

1. We commit to zero tolerance of the abuse, harm, or exploitation of children or adults.
2. We commit to a culture of safeguarding. Everyone under the auspices of our Ministry, including our leadership, staff, and volunteers, is responsible for creating and maintaining a safe culture for all children and adults.
3. 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.
4. We commit to equity, promoting diversity, and upholding justice for the most vulnerable within our community, including children and adults who identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with diverse sexuality, and people with a disability.
5. We commit to our ongoing learning from the First Peoples of our countries.
6. We commit to implementing recruitment processes that identify people aligned to our values and Safeguarding Commitment and deter and detect unsuitable candidates.
7. We commit to creating a safe physical and online environment where all people are respected, and their rights are upheld.
8. We commit to planning, organising, and reviewing activities involving children and vulnerable people, proactively considering potential and actual risks, and addressing any identified risk by reducing or eliminating it wherever possible.
9. We commit to having people who continually develop their education and understanding of child and adult safeguarding.
10. We commit to having safeguarding policies that are regularly reviewed.
11. We commit to effective safeguarding, complaints handling, and reporting. Adults, children, and families are encouraged to share their concerns or suggestions for improving our engagement.
12. We commit to having processes to sensitively respond to allegations and disclosures of child and adult abuse and to report to the appropriate authorities in a timely manner.

For more information or to raise a concern, please contact the Finance and Corporate Services Manager at phone number **02 9634 2317** or by email at [safeguarding@mmsm.org.au](mailto:safeguarding@mmsm.org.au).