Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

Commitment Statement to the Safety and Wellbeing of Children, Young People and Adults at Risk

We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children, young people, and adults in our Church.
The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst (the Diocese) holds the care, safety and wellbeing of children, young people[1], and adults (specifically adults at risk[2]) as central and fundamental responsibilities of the Church. The commitment is drawn from and inherent to the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice, and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

We want our children, young people, and adults to be safe, happy, and empowered.
The Diocese has a universal expectation for the protection of all children, young people, and adults. It is resolutely committed to ensuring that all those engaged in the Church promote the inherent dignity of children, young people and adults and their fundamental right to be respected and nurtured in a safe environment.

We value diversity and do not tolerate any discrimination this is particularly so for the most vulnerable adults, children, and young people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with a disability, we welcome all children and their families, without discriminating based on sexual orientation, intersex status, or gender identity.

- We encourage a child's ability to express their culture and enjoy their cultural rights.
- We actively support and facilitate participation and inclusion by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, and their families.
- We pay particular attention to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people and provide/promote a culturally safe environment for them.

The Catholic Church has a moral, legal, and mission-driven responsibility to create nurturing environments where children, young people and adults are respected, their voices are heard and where they are safe and feel safe.

We have zero tolerance of abuse of children and adults, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously and reported in line with our legal obligations, our moral obligations, and our Church policies.
Creating child-safe environments is a dynamic process that involves active participation and responsibility by parishes, schools, families, communities, and ministries. It is marked by collaboration, vigilance and proactive approaches across policies, procedures, and practices.

We are committed to preventing abuse and identifying risks early and then reducing or removing them. If you see something of concern, please let us know by contacting the Safeguarding Co-ordinator of the Diocese on 0438 951 010 or email childsafety@sandhurst.catholic.org.au.

Every person involved in the Catholic Church has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

[1] Children and Young People refers to any person under the age of 18 years of age.

[2] An adult is any person over the age of 18 years. An adult at risk refers to any person or people aged 18 years and above who is or may be unable to take care of themselves, or is unable to protect themselves against harm or exploitation by reason of age, illness, trauma or disability, or any other reason.