



Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary (ASJM) Australia

Safeguarding Children and Adults Commitment Statement

The Congregation of Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary, Australia, is actively committed to recognising, safeguarding and upholding the dignity and rights of all children and adults. Our commitment is drawn from, and inherent in, the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the Gospel.

We believe that every child and adult has the right to be protected from any form of harm and abuse. Hence we will work towards ensuring that everyone will have a safe environment when in our care. We will also work in partnership with the Church, governments, community agencies and professional support services to prevent harm from occurring to any child or adult.

We recognise that cultural safety and inclusion serve as protective factors in relation to safeguarding, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adults, those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, people with a disability and people of diverse sexuality. We remain committed to maintaining safe and inclusive environments that celebrate diversity and that are free from any forms of discrimination and abuse.

The active participation of those who work with us is essential in building and maintaining safe and positive environments for all. Every person within the authority of the Congregation who comes into contact or works with children or adults is expected to establish safe and supportive relationships. In planning, organising or reviewing activities with children or adults, they and we will consider potential risks and strive to ensure these are reduced or eliminated where possible.

Anyone who brings forward to the Congregation a suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or past abuse of a child or adult will be responded to sensitively, respectfully, actively and in a timely manner. In line with our lawful obligations, we will share information and report concerns, allegations and incidents to the appropriate authority, as required. This includes contacting police immediately where there may be an immediate risk of harm to any child or adult.

In keeping with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, we undertake regular reviews of our safeguarding policies and practices to ensure an ongoing culture of safety and respect for all. We will continue to invite and encourage the participation of children, adults, families and communities in providing feedback and input into areas for strengthening and improvement.

For more information, or to raise a concern, please contact the Safeguarding Coordinator, Augustinian Sisters, Servants of Jesus and Mary at spinelli@bigpond.net.au

Revised October 2021

Declaration

Signature: *Si domine Leta*

Position: ASJM Delegate, Australia

Date: 12/10/2021