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| Title:                          | <b>Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk</b> |
| Policy, Guideline or Statement: | Policy (Short Version)                             |
| Date updated:                   | 19 July 2021                                       |
| Date to be reviewed:            | July 2024                                          |
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The Sisters of the Good Shepherd believe in the right of every child and adult at risk to experience love, care and respect as an individual, and to be given the opportunity to grow to their full potential. We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe environment for children and adults at risk whether we are involved pastorally or have informal or incidental contact (e.g. children or adults at risk visiting our premises).

Good Shepherd Sisters work or volunteer in different places. Each one has a copy of the Province Policy and Code of Conduct, and has signed the Statement of Commitment.

#### **Guiding Principles:**

It is the responsibility of each Sister to:

- ensure the safety and well-being of children and adults at risk at all times.
- recognize that all children and adults at risk have the right to freedom from abuse.
- have a commitment to the prevention of abuse and the protection of children and adults at risk adults.

**All Sisters and volunteers are expected to reflect on and commit to their application personally, in communal living, in the workplace and in ministry within and beyond the Province.**

Every Sister in active ministry is expected to comply with the relevant code of her profession or place of ministry as well as to strive for integrity and competence in the performance of that ministry.

A Sister who ministers in an individual ministry is responsible for undergoing regular supervision, taking opportunities for professional development and ensuring that her way of working and the structural arrangements of her workplace conform to the standards of *Integrity in Ministry* and our *Code of Conduct*.



Where a Sister is authorised to minister alone, the Province Leader will ensure that:

1. She has a current Working with Children Check and Police Check.
2. She is adequately resourced by the Province, particularly in relation to provision of a proper workplace and for supervision and professional development.
3. She has an appropriate professional indemnity cover.

A Sister who resides for a period in a country other than where Good Shepherd Sisters are located is obliged by this policy as well as by the relevant policies of the diocese in which she lives and ministers.