



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

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Review in July 2024

Safeguarding Statement of Commitment

Good Shepherd Sisters, Province of Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, actively commit to fostering communities of safety and to safeguarding of children and adults at risk. We recognize the inherent dignity of children and adults at risk and that each one is valued and protected. Where we are active with families and their communities we will ensure they are informed of relevant issues and participate in decisions about their safety and care.

Good Shepherd Sisters and volunteers will:

- Actively seek to be informed of the causes and signs of abuse and neglect.
- Commit to establishing right relationships and promote a safe and positive environment for children, adults at risk, and with one another. This includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, Maori and Pasifika children, and children of culturally diverse backgrounds, and children who are vulnerable.
- Acknowledge the life-long trauma of victims of abuse, survivors and their families.
- Acknowledge the resilience and strength of survivors as they seek paths of justice and healing.
- When we receive information about concerns or witness any matter relating to abuse of a child or adult at risk, we will respond appropriately and report any such concerns to the appropriate authority. This includes contacting the Police immediately where there may be immediate risk of harm to any person, especially a child.
- We will review all activities with children and adults at risk, proactively considering potential risks and strive to ensure risks are reduced, and eliminated where possible. Everyone will communicate any area of concern or where you think our approach may need improvement.
- We will fully comply with and cooperate with civil law in each jurisdiction where members and volunteers work.
- Every person within the Good Shepherd Sisters who comes into contact, or works, with children or adults at risk will seek to uphold the dignity of all and commit to establishing safe and supportive relationships.

All sisters, staff and volunteers are expected to be aware of and follow these policies and procedures and contribute to the culture of care and protection of children and adults at risk.