



ARCHDIOCESE OF BRISBANE

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

“The Church loves all her children like a loving mother, but cares for all and protects with a special affection those who are smallest and defenceless. This is the duty that Christ himself entrusted to the entire Christian community.”

(Apostolic Letter issued ‘motu proprio’ by the Supreme Pontiff Francis, 4 June 2016)

Purpose

To promote a culture of safeguarding within the Archdiocese and reduce the risks of abuse and harm.

Scope

This policy applies to all parishes, ministries, and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Brisbane and to Associations of Christ’s Faithful or Public Juridic Persons which freely opt in to its application and which enter into an agreement with the Archdiocese accordingly. The policy applies to all Archdiocesan workers (including clergy, religious, employees and volunteers).

Policy

National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

The Archdiocese adopts and adheres to the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards. The Standards apply to all parishes, ministries, and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Archbishop.

Safeguarding Commitment

The Archdiocese has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries, and services. The safety and wellbeing of children and adults-at-risk is paramount.

Safeguarding Principles

- Safeguarding is a shared responsibility.
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Prioritise the protection and best interests of children and adults-at-risk.
- Provide safe physical and online environments.
- Actively identify and manage safeguarding and abuse risks.
- Monitor compliance with safeguarding standards, policies, and procedures.
- Respond promptly and effectively to abuse concerns, suspicions, disclosures, complaints, reports, and incidents.
- Comply with all legal obligations to report suspected abuse and harm.

Compliance

Non-compliance with this policy which seriously jeopardises the safety and wellbeing of others may be grounds for disciplinary action up to dismissal or termination of employment, and reporting to authorities.



ARCHDIOCESE
OF BRISBANE

Safeguarding Commitment

The Archdiocese has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse & is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries & services.

The safety & wellbeing of children & adults-at-risk is paramount.

SAFE CONDUCT STANDARDS

Respect & Protect

The Archdiocese has **zero tolerance** for all forms of abuse and is committed to safeguarding everyone involved in its activities, ministries and services.

The safety and wellbeing of children, young people and adults-at-risk is paramount.

These Standards establish the behaviours expected of all Archdiocesan workers (including clergy, religious, paid employees and volunteers) when interacting with children, young people and adults-at-risk. They apply to all Archdiocesan parishes, ministries, services and agencies and should be read in conjunction with other Archdiocesan and church codes of conduct and behaviour standards.

Children/Child/Young People/Young Person: any person under 18 years of age.

Adult-at-Risk: any person over 18 years of age whose capacity to protect themselves is significantly diminished by an impairment or circumstances (permanent or temporary) and they are at increased risk of abuse.

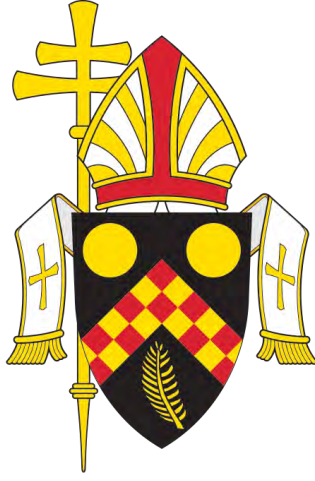
Behaviour Standards

DO:

- ✔ Promote the best interests and human rights of children, young people and adults-at-risk.
- ✔ Treat all children, young people and adults-at-risk with dignity and respect.
- ✔ Respect the diverse backgrounds, characteristics and beliefs of children, young people and adults-at-risk.
- ✔ Create environments that are inclusive and culturally safe for all children, young people and adults-at-risk.
- ✔ Listen and respond to the views and concerns of children, young people and adults-at-risk.
- ✔ Maintain proper physical and personal boundaries with children, young people and adults-at-risk.
- ✔ Respect and protect the privacy of children, young people and adults-at-risk.
- ✔ Actively manage risks to the safety and well-being of children, young people and adults-at-risk.
- ✔ Promptly report all abuse concerns, suspicions, disclosures, reports, complaints and incidents.
- ✔ Take prompt action to ensure the safety of a child, young person or adults who may be at risk of abuse.

DO NOT:

- ✘ Have unnecessary or unauthorised physical contact with a child, young person or adult-at-risk.
- ✘ Have unnecessary or unauthorised one-on-one contact with a child, young person or adult-at-risk (including online).
- ✘ Be excessively familiar or foster a 'special relationship' with a child, young person or adult-at-risk.
- ✘ Use abusive, obscene or sexual language towards or in the presence a child, young person or adult-at-risk.
- ✘ Show a child, young person or adult-at-risk sexual or pornographic images.
- ✘ Interact with children, young people and adults-at-risk while under the influence of liquor or drugs.
- ✘ Unlawfully supply a child or young person with liquor or drugs.
- ✘ Unlawfully disclose personal or sensitive information about a child, young person or adult-at-risk.
- ✘ Take or share images of a child, young person or adult-at-risk without full and proper consent.
- ✘ Unlawfully discriminate against a child, young person or adult-at-risk.



ARCHDIOCESE
OF BRISBANE

STOPline

STOPline receives information about abuse, harm and other serious misconduct by Archdiocesan workers (including priests, religious, employees and volunteers).

Information can be provided anonymously.

Phone: 1300 304 550

Email: AQB@stoline.com.au

Online Report: www.bnecatholic.stolinereport.com



If you think it's wrong report it.

Local Safeguarding Representative



ARCHDIOCESE
OF BRISBANE



Parish: Woodridge

Name: Marina Ene

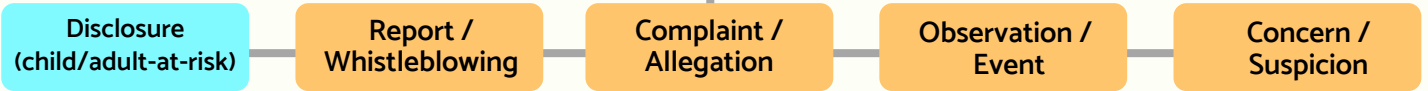
Phone:

Email: safeguarding.woodridge@bne.catholic.net.au

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

Handling Safeguarding Concerns & Abuse Incidents

Abuse concerns, suspicions, disclosures, allegations, reports or incidents.
Other concerning behaviour (e.g. grooming)
Breaches of safeguarding policy, procedures & practices.



If a person is in imminent danger or risk of harm call the police or Triple Zero '000'

Use a private & safe space (not isolated)

Reassure & Listen

Clarify (don't cross examine)

Explain next steps (including reporting obligations)

Comfort & Support

Do not promise to keep an abuse disclosure secret.

RESPOND

- Take action to stop the situation (if necessary & possible).
- Take steps to prevent further abuse or harm (manage risks).
- Provide care & support to anyone affected.

RECORD

- Document details of the incident asap after the event.
- Preserve potential evidence (e.g. text messages, security footage).

REPORT

- Report to the designated responsible person asap & within 24 hours.
- The designated responsible person will report to the organisation.
- Record when and to whom the report was made.
- Keep a copy of all notes, records, evidence.

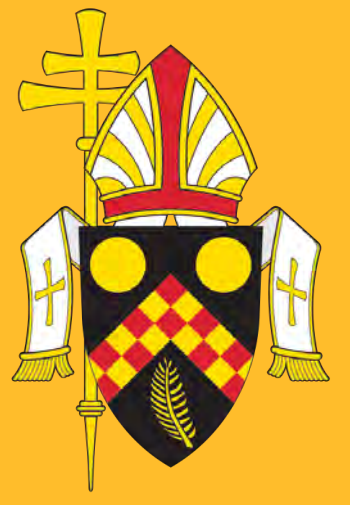
It is a legal requirement to report suspected child sexual abuse (past or present) to the police.
Contact the Legal, Governance & Risk Office asap on 07 3324 3575 or AbuseAlert@bne.catholic.net.au.

Qld Police Service - Emergency: '000' Non-emergency: 131 444

Child Safety Services - Find your local intake service at: www.csyw.qld.gov.au/contact-us

Safeguarding Service - Ph: 3324 3752 Email: safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au

STOPline Service - Ph: 1300 304 550 Email: A0B@stopline.com.au



ARCHDIOCESE
OF BRISBANE



P SAFE
PEOPLE



P SAFE
PRACTICES



P SAFE
PLACES

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.



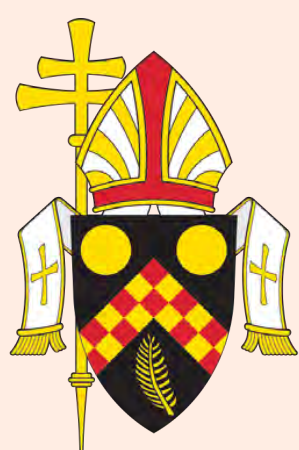


ARCHDIOCESE
OF BRISBANE

Acknowledgement of Abuse Victims & Survivors

The Archdiocese of Brisbane acknowledges the past failure of the Catholic Church to protect children and vulnerable adults, and the lifelong trauma of abuse victims, survivors, and their families.

ALL KIDS
HAVE THE
RIGHT TO
FEEL SAFE
& BE SAFE
HERE.



ARCHDIOCESE
OF BRISBANE

Support Services for Children & Young People



kidshelpline
Anytime Any Reason

Kids Helpline offer 24 hour a day phone & online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.

Phone: 1800 55 1800
Website & Online Chat:
www.kidshelpline.com.au



Youth Beyond Blue supports children & young people with mental health concerns or questions.

Phone: 1300 22 4636
Website & Online Chat:
www.youthbeyondblue.com



Lifeline offers crisis support 24 hours a day for anyone who is worried, angry, upset or stressed about something.

Phone: 13 11 14
Website & Online Chat:
www.lifeline.org.au