



DIOCESE OF
CAIRNS



SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT STATEMENT

The Diocese of Cairns is actively committed to fostering communities of safeguarding that recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable adults.

The Diocese has a zero tolerance to abuse and will respond promptly to all abuse concerns, allegations and incidents. This includes contacting the police immediately where there may be immediate risk of harm to any person, especially a child.

Every person within the Diocese of Cairns who comes into contact, or works with children and vulnerable adults, seeks to uphold the dignity of all children and vulnerable adults and commits to establishing safe and supportive relationships.

The Diocese of Cairns has documented policies and procedures to prevent risks to children and vulnerable adults and build a strong culture of safeguarding. All priests, religious, staff and volunteers are expected to follow these policies and procedures and contribute to the culture of care and protection of all children and vulnerable adults.

We will plan, organise and review all activities with children, proactively considering potential risks and strive to ensure risks are reduced, and eliminated where possible. Everyone is encouraged to communicate any area of concern or where you think our approach may need improvement.

Anyone who brings forward a suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or past abuse of a child or vulnerable adult to the Diocese of Cairns will be responded to sensitively, respectfully, actively and in a timely manner, in line with our lawful obligations and our own Complaints Handling Policy.

We will listen to the voices of children and vulnerable adults as we constantly strive to remain vigilant and make improvements.

The Diocese commits to comply with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and relevant statutory obligations related to the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

**For more information or to raise a concern please contact:
Your Parish Safeguarding Representative or
Professional Standards and Safeguarding Office on 40509765**

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY