



**Marymead
CatholicCare**
CANBERRA & GOULBURN

Child Safe Statement of Commitment

Marymead CatholicCare Canberra & Goulburn (MCCG) is inspired by its mission and values, and informed by the Principles of Catholic Social Teachings and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, to ensure that safeguarding is central to our culture, operation, and purpose.

Marymead CatholicCare has zero tolerance for mistreatment and abuse of children and young people and is committed to upholding and promoting their safety and wellbeing. To ensure Marymead CatholicCare protects children and young people from risk of harm and fosters a culture of safeguarding, Marymead CatholicCare will develop and implement systems and practices based on the following Safeguarding Principles.

Respect

We will treat everyone equally, regardless of who they are or their age. We will ensure that children's rights are understood by everyone at Marymead CatholicCare, and that children and young people feel safe, welcome and respected.

Inform

We will ensure that children and young people are informed of their rights, including their right to feel safe and who they should approach if they feel unsafe.

Safety

We will ensure that children and young people feel safe in our care and feel able to respond to any behaviour that is not acceptable. All persons will be supported to safely disclose or report risks of harm to children or young people. We will act immediately in relation to any reports of child abuse, and ensure they are reported to regulatory authorities where necessary.

Give voice

We will actively support children and young people to voice their opinions, concerns, and complaints, including complaints about MCCG. We will respectfully listen and take their input, concerns or complaints seriously.

Staff and volunteers

We will ensure that all workers whom we engage have been appropriately screened, and have the skills, knowledge and training to be child safe and work positively with children and young people.

Include children in decisions

We will actively seek input and feedback from children and young people, and empower them to participate in decisions affecting their lives or care.

Safe and inclusive environment

We will ensure that our physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing. We will provide a safe and inclusive environment for all children and young people, including those from a diverse mix of cultures, backgrounds and life experiences.

Cultural Safety

We will support the cultural safety of all children and young people, including First Nations children and children from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds.

Policies and procedures

We will regularly review and improve our policies and procedures to promote and uphold child safety and wellbeing.

Family and community

Where it is safe to do so, we will involve families and communities in our approach to child safety and wellbeing.