

# Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People

The CAM Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People communicates the unequivocal stance of the Archbishop and the leaders of the Melbourne church on the centrality of the safe participation of children and young people in the Gospel mission within the Archdiocese.

A parish, agency or entity Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People enables parishes, agencies and entities to endorse and communicate their specific responsibilities in relation to child safety and recognise their efforts with pride. Together, these documents unify our commitment across the Archdiocese to implement preventative and proactive strategies that promote a culture of openness to, awareness of, and shared responsibility for child safety.

For clergy, employees and volunteers, the Statement of Commitment reinforces the collective mission to work together to safeguard children and young people from harm.

For parents who entrust their children to our care, it provides a statement of our intentions and an acceptance of our responsibility to do all we can to keep children and young people safe.

For children and young people, the Statement of Commitment emphasises the importance placed on their safety in the context of their interaction with parishes, agencies and entities.

For members of the public, it communicates that parishes, agencies and entities have instituted policies, procedures and practices designed to ensure the safety of children and young people, and that we are not a 'soft target' for those who wish to harm children and young people.

### Shared commitment

It is within parishes, agencies and entities that the child safety message must be 'lived' and enacted.

## IMPLEMENTATION

Compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards require parishes, agencies and entities to adopt a Parish, Agency or Entity Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People.

Publicising the Statement of Commitment and the Parish, Agency or Entity Statement of Commitment within your parish, agency or entity (e.g. via website, newsletter, letter to parishioners, promotional materials, volunteer packs) can be a useful way of ensuring that all those involved understand the broader context of child safety within the Archdiocese and help to frame efforts to keep children and young people safe within a parish, agency or entity.

Re-endorsement of this commitment on an annual basis ensures that child safety remains an acknowledged priority within your community – see **Template - Parish, Agency and Entity Statement of Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People**.



CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE  
OF MELBOURNE

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*The Archdiocese of Melbourne is committed to the safety, wellbeing and dignity of all children, young people and vulnerable adults.*