

# Safeguarding Commitment Statement

Prelature of Opus Dei in Australia and New Zealand

*Last review date: 24 September 2020*

The Prelature of Opus Dei in Australia and New Zealand (hereinafter, “the Prelature”) is committed to promoting the safety, welfare and protection of children and vulnerable persons in accordance with the relevant civil legislation of each state and territory, with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, with the principles set out in the relevant documents of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, and in the relevant documents of the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, and with the Guidelines issued by the Prelate of Opus Dei for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Persons.

The Prelature considers child abuse and abuse of vulnerable persons to be a grave violation of Christian principles and not to be tolerated. Such offenses are particularly grievous when they are committed by persons who undertake to help others follow Jesus Christ and his teachings more closely. The Prelature is committed to a zero-tolerance approach to safeguarding of children and vulnerable persons.

We actively seek to remain informed of the causes and signs of child abuse and neglect. When we receive information about concerns or witness any matter relating to abuse of a child or vulnerable person, we 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 or vulnerable person.

The Prelature of Opus Dei in Australia and New Zealand has documented policies and procedures to prevent risks to children and build a strong culture of safeguarding. All priests, deacons, and lay persons of the Prelature who have been specifically assigned by the Prelature to provide Christian formation to young people are expected to follow these policies and procedures and contribute to the culture of care and protection of all children.

Anyone who brings forward a suspicion, concerns, knowledge or allegation of current or past abuse of a child to the Prelature of Opus Dei in Australia and New Zealand will be responded to sensitively, respectfully, actively and in a timely manner, in line with our lawful obligations and our own Safeguarding Policy. We undertake regular reviews of our safeguarding policies and practices to make sure that they support a culture and practice that puts the safety of children at the centre of our thinking and action.

To report an instance of child abuse, please contact the Child Protection Officer, Mr Gerald Santucci, at +61 414 936 456.