



Catholic Diocese of Armidale

Safeguarding Commitment Statement

The Catholic Diocese of Armidale and its agencies are wholly committed to the safety, care and wellbeing of children and adults at risk in our community.

The origin of this commitment lies in the respect and rights inherent in our human dignity - being persons created in the image of God. Moreover, the diocesan mission of Christ teaches us to love, respect and be just to all people, at all stages of their life.

Therefore, we are obliged to protect all those in our communities and to provide a safe, nurturing and dynamic culture for all to flourish, especially for children and adults at risk. This responsibility is fundamental to the teaching and values of the Catholic Church, and our commitment extends to all members of our community, including clergy, employees and volunteers, regardless of their position or level of responsibility.

We as a Diocese seek to protect the vulnerable and strive to prevent unjust discrimination at all levels, while engaging with those in need. To do this, we will:

- uphold the dignity of each person, so they can develop and flourish in a safe community;
- maintain a firm zero-tolerance approach to abuse and discrimination;
- implement strict risk management and employment practices;
- empower all people to voice their just concerns;
- respond sensitively, respectfully and appropriately to any concerns raised;
- seek engagement and participation of children and adults at risk, as well as their carers, families and relevant communities;
- strive for prevention – to identify and remove risk practices from the outset;
- report any suspect abuse promptly to the relevant authorities; and
- ensure that all persons are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities.

Creating a safeguarding culture in the Diocese requires a commitment from all persons. This responsibility demands vigilance, mutual cooperation and support among all the agencies, parishes and ministries, and their people.

If you have any concerns, please contact the Diocese on (02) 6771 8700 or email safeguarding@armidale.catholic.org.au.

Most Rev Peter Murphy
Bishop of Armidale