



# Catholic Diocese of Darwin

## Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Prevention and Protection Policy

### Introduction and Purpose

The Diocese of Darwin is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This policy continues our long held practice of providing safe environments and activities which acknowledge the inherent dignity of each person.

The diocese aims to ensure that every possible effort is made to safeguard against harm or abuse to children or vulnerable adults.

This policy has two associated documents: a support document and a document outlining implementation and accountability strategies.

### Policy Statement

The Catholic Diocese of Darwin, consistent with gospel values and its Mission Statement, follows the example of Jesus in respecting the dignity of each child, young person and vulnerable adult. All members of the diocesan family will work together for the protection of these people and for the prevention of any form of abuse, neglect or exploitation – physical, sexual, emotional or spiritual – within our church communities and organisations.

### Scope

This document applies to all clergy, religious, employees and volunteers who work in the diocese and complements the documents *Integrity in Ministry (Reprinted 2010)* and *Integrity in the Service of the Church (2011)*.

### Core Principles

The Catholic Diocese of Darwin will:

- Work in partnership with families to promote the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- Provide safe and nurturing environments for children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- Implement safe recruitment and selection practices for church personnel including volunteers;
- Demonstrate accountability through provision of protective systems and practices;
- Maintain standards of conduct which show clear guidelines for ethical behaviour which reduce risk of harm to children, young people and vulnerable adults;
- Respond appropriately to disclosures of harm and abuse, and concerns of inappropriate behaviour toward children, young people and vulnerable adults and those experiencing or being exposed to family or domestic violence.

### Related Policies, Legislation and Documents

The Diocesan Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy is compliant with relevant Church Documents, Northern Territory and Commonwealth Government Legislation.

Signed:

Date:

## Support Material

This Policy document has two associated papers: Support Document and Implementation and Accountability Strategies.

The following documents should be used to support the Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy.

- i. The Care and Protection of Children Act
- ii. Working with Children Clearance
- iii. Information Sharing Guidelines (1 July 2012) (Northern Territory)
- iv. Disability Services Act
- v. Adult Guardianship Act
- vi. Domestic and Family Violence Act
- vii. Towards Healing (Revised 2010) Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia
- viii. NAPCAN
- ix. Criminal Code Act (Northern Territory)
- x. Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: It's everybody's responsibility, Department of Children and Families
- xi. Department of Children and Families: Child Abuse
- xii. Integrity in Ministry (Reprinted 2010) Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia
- xiii. Integrity in the Service of the Church (2011) Australian Catholic Bishops Conference and Catholic Religious Australia
- xiv. Making use of Integrity in the Service of the Church: Support Materials, a Document of the National Committee for Professional Standards, 2011.
- xv. Code of Conduct

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| SUBJECT     | Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults |
| TITLE       | Prevention and Protection Policy            |
| APPROVED BY | Bishop Eugene Hurley                        |
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### POLICY DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

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No changes are to be made to this document without the agreement of the authorising signatory and must be approved by the responsible manager before implementation.

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Owner: *Integrity Officer*

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