

## 1. Statement of Commitment

<b>Procedure number</b>	001	<b>Version</b>	002
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<b>Document Owner</b>	Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator	<b>Scheduled review date</b>	December 2020

### **Statement of Commitment:**

*The Catholic Diocese of Townsville will do everything within its power to provide a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults to minimise the possibility of any harm. The Diocese commits to a zero tolerance approach to any forms of abuse and reflects this commitment in its procedures.*

*The Catholic Church is called by Jesus to give priority of place to the welfare and well-being of children and vulnerable people. The voices of our most vulnerable in the Church should be heard and listened to so we see reality through their eyes.*

*The Catholic Diocese of Townsville believes that children and vulnerable people are a gift from God with an intrinsic right to dignity of life, respect and security from physical, emotional, spiritual and psychological harm.*

*The Catholic Diocese of Townsville has established a policy to help protect children and vulnerable people in our Church. This policy applies to all Church personnel within this Diocese including any cleric, member of a religious institute or other persons who are employed by the Church, or appointed to voluntary positions, or engage in other forms of pastoral ministry.*

*The Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy and its procedures is governed by current legislation to safeguard, ensure legislative compliance and to be accountable and transparent in all ministries undertaken by the Church.*

<b>ROLE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITIES</b>
Parish Priest or Administrator, Agency Director or Safeguarding Representative  Parish Priest or Administrator or Agency Director to identify and appoint who has the responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Statement of Commitment is visible to the public in the Church or agency facilities;</li> <li>• Ensure a statement of commitment is published in Parish and agency newsletters or publicly announced at identified meetings and gatherings;</li> <li>• Provide a copy of Statement of Commitment to all new Clergy, Religious, lay person, paid staff and volunteers within Parish, Ministry and Agency;</li> <li>• Ensure any group, club, school etc. hiring Parish, Ministry or Agency facilities have been made aware of the Statement of Commitment and this is documented through third party agreements.</li> </ul>
Church personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure understanding of this Statement of Commitment and promote this message at every opportunity;</li> <li>• Engage in conversation as people make comment or raise questions or concerns about this and encourage them to discuss with Parish Priest/Administrator or Safeguarding Representative within Parish, Ministry or Agency.</li> </ul>

Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicate feedback, updates and changes to Statement of Commitment in consultation with Parish, Ministry and Agency leadership;</li> <li>• Encourage constructive discussion and awareness of Statement of Commitment through Parish Council, Ministry and Agency meetings, training and forums, consultations and promotional materials;</li> <li>• Ensure Statement of Commitment material is printed and provided to parishes, ministries and agencies;</li> <li>• Ensure that relevant Church personnel have been trained in safeguarding policy and procedures, have understood and agree to comply by signing the receipt notice covering all safeguarding procedures or Volunteers Agreement.</li> </ul>
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**1. Statement of Commitment - procedure outline:**

1.1. All Church personnel

- 1.1.1. All new staff including Church Clergy, Religious, lay workers, paid staff and volunteers are to be provided the Statement of Commitment as part of their safeguarding induction;
- 1.1.2. The Parish, Ministry and Agency leadership are responsible for ensuring that safeguarding inductions occur for new staff and scheduled training occurs for all Church personnel;
- 1.1.3. The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator is responsible for facilitating safeguarding training and seeking Church personnel understanding and agreement through a receipt notice that staff sign when they have been trained in the relevant safeguarding procedures. **Note:** There will be one receipt notice covering the relevant safeguarding procedures;
- 1.1.4. Parish, Ministry and Agency leadership are responsible for ensuring their staff are aware, understand, apply and promote the Statement of Commitment in every aspect of their work and ministry. This includes ensuring that training in this procedure occurs for all staff and requesting the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator to arrange this training as required;
- 1.1.5. Where cultural/communication/language support is required to assist the new staff to understand the Statement of Commitment more fully, then the Parish, Ministry or Agency will work with the Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator to facilitate this support.