



# Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

St John's Church is a contemporary catholic Anglican parish of the Diocese of Melbourne in the Anglican Church of Australia. Our corporate life cherishes word and sacrament and is embedded in prayer and worship. We are committed to compassion and justice. St John's is an inclusive parish community welcoming people of all ages, gender, race, colour, creed and sexual orientation.

The parish community acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which St John's is built, and pays their respects to the Wurundjeri people and the elders of the Kulin Nation.

The parish community seeks to promote the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and all children who come to us from a culturally or linguistically diverse background. We also seek to ensure the safety of any child with a disability.

The parish community affirms that all children who come to St John's have a right to feel and be safe. We are committed to ensuring that children's best interests are met in our parish. We have zero tolerance towards child abuse. The parish community actively works to listen to and empower children within our community.

In order to ensure that we meet the highest standards of child safety for each child who comes into our community, we have the following policies and documents in place:

## **Culture of the organisation**

Our organisational culture is one that ensures child safety through effective leadership and clear lines of accountability. We ensure that all those in positions of power or influence with children are properly screened, supervised and trained.

## **Code of conduct and Duty of Care**

Our code of conduct is contained in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne "*Duty of Care*" handbook. A copy of this handbook is provided to all those, in paid or voluntary positions, who have contact with children.

The handbook is available at all our places of worship and can also be found online at [melbourneanglican.org.au](http://melbourneanglican.org.au) or from the Church office on request.

## **Working with Children cards and Police checks**

All those working with children in the parish are required to have a current *Working With Children card and Police check*. We also conduct reference checks on those who move into our parish and ask to be part of leadership teams.



## Responding to and reporting of suspected incidents of child abuse

The process of responding to and reporting suspected child abuse is as set out below by the diocese. In the first instance talk to the ministry team, including the Vicar and Child Safety Officer, and they will discuss with you what further action should be taken.

Vicar Fr John Baldock | 0438 640 644 | [vicar@stjc.org.au](mailto:vicar@stjc.org.au)

Child Safety Officer Georgina Porter | 0419 127 798 | [office@stjc.org.au](mailto:office@stjc.org.au)

**OR**

You may also take your complaint directly to the diocese.

**OR**

Any adult who forms a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed by an adult against a child under 16 has an obligation to report that information to Victoria Police 000. Failure to disclose the information to Police is a criminal offence: Crimes Act 1958, s327.

## Reporting complaints to the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

The Anglican Diocese of Melbourne takes all complaints of misconduct very seriously. This information is intended to help you if you wish to make a complaint, have been or are being abused or harassed by clergy or Church officers, including Regional Bishops, in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne.

Kooyoora Ltd has been appointed by the Melbourne Diocese to respond to all complaints of misconduct including sexual, physical, spiritual or emotional abuse by clergy or Church officers. Kooyoora Ltd is an independent Professional Standards company which undertakes Professional Standards work for non for profit charitable entities. You can find out more about Kooyoora's role at [kooyoora.org.au](http://kooyoora.org.au)

## Steps to take in making a complaint to the Professional Standards of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne

The *Director of Professional Standards* responds to all complaints of misconduct including sexual, physical, spiritual or emotional abuse by Clergy or Church officers. The Director is as independent as possible from the Diocese but is paid by the Diocese.

### The first step

in making a complaint is to call the recorded information line at any time on: **1800 135 246**

All information provided to this service is strictly confidential. The person taking a message on this number will ask you to give a name and your phone number or address so that Kooyoora can contact you as soon as possible.

### Alternatively, you can write to the Director

*By email to:*

[contact@kooyoora.org.au](mailto:contact@kooyoora.org.au)

*or by mail to:*

Director of Professional Standards  
Kooyoora Ltd  
PO Box 329  
Canterbury VIC 3126

*Mark your envelope Confidential*

### Website Links

[Faithfulness in Service](#)

[Code of Conduct for Child Safety](#)

[Safe Ministry to Children Canon 2017](#)

[Safe Ministry Policy](#)

[Guidelines for Child Safety](#)

[Statement of Commitment for Child Safety](#)