

Commitment to the Safety of Children and Young People

Loreto Ministries is committed to providing an environment that is caring, nurturing and safe for the children and young people participating in our ministries and programs both in Australia and overseas.

Our organisation operates and/or is represented in communities across Australia, and overseas where we facilitate access to education programs and formal and informal learning opportunities for children and young people. We take seriously our responsibility to provide an environment that is caring, nurturing and safe for the children and young people participating in our programs, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and children with disabilities.

Loreto Ministries considers that child safety is paramount. In particular, Loreto Ministries is committed to safeguarding the children and young people participating in our education services and programs from:

- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Witnessing family violence

This commitment to providing a safe environment for the children and young people is approved and endorsed at the highest levels of our organisation.

As part of this commitment, Loreto Ministries has introduced Child Safe Principles. These Principles, which complement our Code of Conduct, are designed to:

- Create an environment where children's safety and wellbeing are the centre of thought, values and actions
- Place emphasis on genuine engagement with and valuing of children
- Create conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people
- Create conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm
- Provide a framework for responding to any concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions of harm. Anyone with concerns, disclosures, allegations or suspicions should refer to the Reportable Conduct Procedures on the website, or contact Cate Sydes, Chief Executive Officer.

Child Safe Principles

The Loreto Ministries' Child Safe Principles are:

- Principle 1:** Child safety is embedded in institutional leadership, governance and culture
- Principle 2:** Children should be empowered to participate in decisions affecting them, and contributions should be valued
- Principle 3:** A culture of openness should be fostered, where families and communities are informed and involved
- Principle 4:** Equity is upheld and diverse needs are taken into account
- Principle 5:** People working with children are suitable and supported
- Principle 6:** Processes to respond to complaints of child sexual abuse are child focused
- Principle 7:** Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training
- Principle 8:** Minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur in both physical and online environments
- Principle 9:** *Child Safe Principles* are continuously reviewed and improved, and compliance with the Principles monitored
- Principle 10:** Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe

