



## ***Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham***

### ***Statement of Commitment to Child Safety***

*Date of policy: 16 February 2017*

*Endorsed Parish Support Group: 16 February 2017*

*Endorsed Parish Priest: 16 February 2017*

*Date of last major review: 16 February 2017*

*Date of next major review: August 2017*

## **Background**

*Pursuant to the Victorian Child Safe Standards 1 and 2, our parish is required to have in place policies and procedures which promote and embed an organisational culture of child safety.*

*This document outlines Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Eltham's Statement of Commitment to Child Safety.*

*The principles on which this policy is based include promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and promoting the safety of children with a disability.*

*The Church's social doctrine constantly points out the need to respect the dignity of children. 'In the family, which is a community of persons, special attention must be devoted to the children by developing a profound esteem for their personal dignity, and a great respect and generous concern for their rights. Indeed it was Jesus who, when his disciples were arguing among themselves about who was the greatest, directed his attention to a little child and said to his disciples, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me' (Mark 9.37).*

## **Our Statement of Commitment**

At Our Lady Help of Christians Parish, Eltham, we hold the care, safety and wellbeing of children and young people as a central and fundamental responsibility. Our commitment is drawn from and inherent in the teaching and mission of Jesus Christ, with love, justice and the sanctity of each human person at the heart of the gospel (CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety).<sup>1</sup>

The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ's teaching.

This statement affirms our commitment to child safety by clearly stating that we:

- Have zero tolerance for child abuse;
- actively work to listen to and empower children;
- have systems to protect children from abuse, and will take all allegations and concerns very seriously and respond to them consistently in line with our policies and procedures; and
- are committed to promoting cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, cultural safety for children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability by having zero tolerance for any form of discrimination.

Further, as Parish Priest and leader of the Community of Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, I make a commitment to follow 'Integrity in Ministry' which is a document of Principles and Standards for Catholic Clergy and Religious in Australia. I will also ensure that any other priest or religious who may be assigned to our Parish adheres to its behavioural standards.

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<sup>1</sup> [CECV Commitment Statement to Child Safety](#)