


ST COLUMBANS MISSION SOCIETY (AUSTRALIA) - SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction from the Regional Director of Oceania and the Columban Leader Australia

- 1.1 This policy sets out our commitment to child protection in all aspects of our work and ministry. It sets out how we work to prevent any abuse of the sacred trust which has been given to us, and where an allegation is made of a breach of that trust, this policy describes the procedure we follow.
- 1.2 This policy was formally adopted by Australia on 23 November 2019.
- 1.3 This policy confirms our commitment to adhere to all aspects of best practice of child protection. As a Society, and as individual priests and associates, we are aware of the vital importance of children in the life and future of our faith; a truth declared by Christ himself and affirmed by His Holiness Pope Francis. Our child protection policy is an essential part of our work to include children in our ministry, and to do so in a way that respects and safeguards them. We recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all children. We are committed to ensuring their safety and well-being. We value and encourage the participation of children and young people in the life of the Church. We recognise that, while the safeguarding of children is everyone's responsibility, all involved in working with children and young people have a special duty of care towards them.
- 1.4 We are keenly aware of the terrible and permanent consequences of a breach of trust, particularly where the person injured by such a breach is a child. In concrete terms, we are committed to working with victims of abuse, listening to them and reaching out to them pastorally. Where information is brought to our attention, we will bring that information to the appropriate civil authorities and assist the authorities as best we can. In our ministry and work, we are committed to working within the law and legal norms of Australia and in accordance with the policies and procedures set out in this policy.
- 1.5 This policy was drafted, reviewed and approved by the Australian Child Safeguarding Committee.

Fr Trevor Trotter

Regional Director of Oceania

Signed: 

Date: 04 March 2020

Fr Peter O'Neill

Country Leader Australia

Signed: 

Date: 04 March 2020