



SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT STATEMENT

New Norcia Services (including the Benedictine Community of New Norcia) has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and is actively committed to fostering communities of safeguarding that recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of all, particularly children and adults at risk.

We encourage open communication whereby families, communities and members of groups attending New Norcia for whatever reason are informed of relevant issues and participate in decisions about the safety of children and adults at risk. It is of the utmost importance to us to look for avenues to empower children and adults at risk to have a say and be listened to.

We actively seek to continually become and remain informed of the causes and signs of child and adult abuse and neglect.

When we receive information about concerns or witness any matter relating to abuse of a child or adult at risk, we respond appropriately and report any such concerns to the appropriate authority. This includes contacting the police immediately where there may be immediate risk of harm to any person, especially a child or adult at risk.

Every person within the New Norcia Parish and workplace who comes in contact, or works, with children or adults at risk seeks to uphold the dignity of all and commits to establishing safe and supportive relationships.

New Norcia Parish and workplace has documented policies and procedures to prevent risks to children and adults at risk and build a strong culture of safeguarding. All Monks, staff, volunteers and contractors are expected to follow these policies and procedures and contribute to the care and protection of all.

We plan, organise and review all activities with children and adults at risk, proactively considering potential risk and strive to ensure the mitigation of risks. Everyone is encouraged to communicate any area of concern or where our approach may need to be improved.

Anyone who brings forward a suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or past abuse of a child or adult at risk to the New Norcia Parish or within the workplace will be responded to sensitively, respectfully, actively and in a timely manner, in line with our lawful obligations and our own Complaints Handling Policy. We acknowledge the legislative requirement (1st November 2022) that ministers of religion are mandatory reporters.

We regularly undertake internal and external auditing of our safeguarding policies and practices to make sure that they always support a culture and practice that puts the safety of children and adults at risk at the centre of our thinking and action.

We listen to the voices of all who engage with the site as we constantly strive to remain vigilant and make improvements.

We are committed to the engagement of two Safeguarding Officers in compliance with the Archdiocesan Safeguarding Office Safeguarding Policy.

Fr John Herbert OSB, Abbot

Further information can be accessed from safeguarding information stations across the site, or at <https://www.newnorcia.com.au/safeguarding>