

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY



1.1 Statement of Commitment

Emmanuel Community is committed to providing services to children, young people and vulnerable adults to assist them to grow in personal identity and self worth, value based decision making skills, and faith development. The highest level of care and protection is a mark of our purpose and charism in both society and the Church today. Our organisation is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children, young people and vulnerable adults and will endeavour to provide a safe and supportive service environment for children and young people by providing training, accountability and formation to our leaders, including following current legal, national and archdiocesan procedures.

1.2 Purpose

EC operates in a wider community context where legal requirements exist and where there is an obligation to -

- provide a secure, environment where children can be and feel safe
- protect children
- intervene on behalf of children
- ensure the principles of care, protection and safety are implemented

The policy, procedures and practices outlined below are formulated within the context of Queensland child protection legislation, the Archdiocese of Brisbane (or to the diocese to which we are ministering to) and the National Safeguarding standards and apply to Agents of Emmanuel Community encountering children or vulnerable adults in the course of activities sponsored or organised by the Community. It is not intended that they will fully describe an Agent's duty of care.

1.3 Who must comply

Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults is the responsibility of every person. Agents are often in a privileged position to help safeguard the protection of children they encounter. Every Agent must exercise the utmost diligence and care in relation to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Each EC Agent, staff, volunteer or representative is to ensure they are fully aware of and comply with the EC Policy, Procedures and Practices in relation to Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

1.4 Scope of policy

EC is a community organisation that endeavours to assist individuals and families to live a Christian way of life. The community conducts many meetings and activities for its own members and for members of the public, sometimes with the cooperation of other organisations such as schools and parishes. These events touch the lives of families and children. Such events, endorsed by Senior Leadership Team directly or through delegated authority, are covered by this framework.

In planning events, Agents must undertake a risk assessment prior to the event. Within the context of conducting an event, Agents may identify a child or vulnerable adult who is at risk.

1.5 Policy statement

In its ministry activity EC will take all reasonable steps to keep children and vulnerable adults safe and will ensure the child has access to suitable adults who are able and willing to protect the child or vulnerable adult from harm.

EC will ensure that its Agents who work with children have a current Blue Card or WWCC equivalent and follow all requirements by both state law and archdiocesan guidelines.

In jointly sponsored activities EC will clarify where the responsibility for reporting notifiable situations lies before authorising involvement of its Agents.

1.6 Respect for Others

Emmanuel Community recognises the love, respect, and dignity all humans deserve and is committed to fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all individuals regardless of their background, ethnicity, identity or beliefs. We prioritize the well-being of our community members and activity work to create a space where everyone feels valued, respected and protected.

1.7 Implementation

This policy will be implemented through a thorough training program with all applicable Agents of EC (normally annually) and continue with annual training of safeguarding and professional standards training and prayer team training. All Agents must do this training before acting in a leadership, volunteer or support role in any EC activities or events. All agents must complete this training every two years.

1.8 References

The policy, procedures and practices outlined are formulated with reference to:

- Queensland Child Protection Act, 1999, (current 19 January 2015)
- Child Protection Reform Amendment Act 2017
- Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000 as amended 2004. (current 1 January 2014)
- "Towards Healing" (January 2016), Principles and Procedures in responding to complaints of abuse against personnel of the Catholic Church of Australia, Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference & the Catholic Religious Australia.
- "Integrity in service of the Church" (September 2011, reprint February 2013) A resource document of principles and standards of Lay Workers in the Catholic Church in Australia.
- The current standards of safeguarding children within the Archdiocese of Brisbane.
- National Catholic Safeguarding standards, <https://www.cpsltd.org.au/safe-church/national-catholic-safeguarding-standards/>