



**Maronite Eparchy of Australia
New Zealand and Oceania**

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT SAFEGUARDING MINORS AND VULNERABLE PERSONS

Every person in the parish has a responsibility to understand the role they play as an individual and as a part of the team to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of minors and the vulnerable is a priority in their actions and decisions.



|| THIS PARISH:

- is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all people including minors and vulnerable persons. This will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.
- has zero tolerance for the abuse, neglect and marginalisation of minors and the vulnerable.
- is committed to providing a safe environment where minors and the vulnerable are protected and feel safe.

|| MEMBERS OF THIS PARISH WILL:

- take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to safety; make safety a priority in all decision making processes of the parish;
- foster a culture of openness that supports the disclosure of any risks to anyone in the parish or on parish premises;
- respect people from diverse cultures;
- promote safety and protection of minors and the vulnerable;
- engage staff or volunteers on the basis of their merit and not because from any personal or social considerations;
- ensure minors and vulnerable persons know who to approach if they are worried or are feeling unsafe or at risk, and that they are comfortable and encouraged in raising their concern;
- report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the authorities;
- share information appropriately and lawfully with other appropriate organisations where the safety and wellbeing of minors and the vulnerable is at risk; and
- respect and communicate regularly with families and carers.



**If you have any questions or would like to file a report, please contact the
Maronite Safeguarding Office on +61 2 8831 0000 or via safeguarding@maronite.org.au**