



REPORTING ABUSE

If a child or young person is in imminent danger, a report to your State Police must be made immediately, phone '000'

CATEGORIES OF ABUSE

Child abuse or child-safety related misconduct refers to acts that put a child or young person's physical or emotional well-being and development in danger. It can also include a failure to provide suitable conditions that significantly impair or risk the child or young person's health and development. There are several categories of abuse and maltreatment:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- grooming
- problematic sexual behavior of children and young people
- emotional abuse
- spiritual abuse
- family violence
- neglect
- discrimination
- bullying (including cyberbullying)

All clergy, employees, and volunteers have a responsibility to be alert and proactive in identifying indicators or signs of child abuse, as well as responding to disclosures, allegations, and reports. Appropriate action to support and protect children or young people who are at risk or experiencing harm is a critical part of their role to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults.

MARONITE EPARCHY OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND AND OCEANIA

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REPORTING AN INCIDENT

Anyone, regardless of age or role (child, young person, adult, priest, employee, volunteer), can report current or historical child abuse or child-safety related misconduct.

It is mandatory for all clergy, employees, and volunteers to report if they have a reasonable belief that a child or young person has experienced abuse, is currently experiencing abuse, or is at risk of harm due to child-safety related misconduct.

The Maronite Eparchy of Australia, New Zealand and Oceania takes all concerns, allegations, or complaints of abuse and misconduct seriously, treating them with sensitivity and fulfilling their moral, ethical, and legal obligations.

Depending on the nature of the reported behavior, such as a criminal act, it will be immediately reported to the Police in the relevant State. If the behavior is considered child-safety related misconduct (not criminal), it will be referred for investigation, and if substantiated, disciplinary action will be taken.

All cases of child abuse or child-safety related misconduct are reported to the Department Communities and Justice.

YOUR RIGHTS
and **RESPONSIBILITIES...**