



CAPUCHIN FRANCISCAN FRIARS AUSTRALIA

Safeguarding Commitment Statement

The Capuchin Friars Province of Australia (Capuchin Friars) is committed to fostering a culture of safety, care and respect for all people, especially children and adults at risk, and serving them with grace and humility.

Safeguarding is integral to our mission and ministry. Inspired by the Gospel and the example of St. Francis of Assisi, we strive to be instruments of peace, healing, and justice. We recognise the lifelong impact of abuse and are committed to walking with survivors in their journey of healing.

In alignment with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards, Integrity in Our Common Mission, and the Child Safe Standards in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, we pledge to uphold this Safeguarding Commitment Statement in every aspect of our work to provide a safe environment for all people involved in our ministries.

Our commitments

- **Safety First:** We prioritise the physical, emotional, spiritual, and psychological safety of all individuals who engage with our ministries, communities, and services.
- **Zero Tolerance for Abuse and Harm:** We have zero tolerance for any form of abuse or harm. We are committed to preventing abuse and responding promptly and compassionately to any concerns raised.

- **Inclusive Safeguarding:** Our safeguarding practices extend to all people, with particular attention to children and adults at risk, including those who may be vulnerable due to age, disability, trauma, or social disadvantage.
- **Trauma-Informed and Culturally Safe:** We adopt trauma-informed approaches and promote cultural safety, especially for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, respecting their traditions, leadership, and healing journeys.
- **Empowerment and Participation:** We actively engage children, families, carers, and communities in safeguarding efforts, ensuring their voices are heard and respected.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** We uphold the highest standards of governance, integrity, and professionalism. We regularly review and improve our safeguarding practices and welcome external audits and feedback.
- **Education and Formation:** All friars, employees, and volunteers are trained in safeguarding principles and practices. We ensure ongoing formation to build awareness, competence, and commitment.
- **Legal and Ethical Compliance:** We comply with all relevant civil laws, Church laws, and professional standards in the jurisdictions where we have a presence.