



CATHOLIC DIOCESE of TOOWOOMBA

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE and ADULTS at RISK

DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT STATEMENT

In the Diocese of Toowoomba we commit ourselves to ensuring the safety and well-being of children, young people and adults at risk, in our Diocesan community.

The best interests of the child, young person or adult at risk come first.

Our Diocese takes a zero tolerance approach to all forms of abuse.

We commit to positive and immediate response to those who have experienced abuse in our Diocese.

We commit to effective prevention of abuse in our Diocese, parish by parish, through improving safeguarding practices and policies and providing safeguarding training and education to Diocesan and Parish personnel and communities.

We commit to continuous learning on the safeguarding and well-being of children, young people and adults at risk.

We welcome advice and support from independent experts in the wider community.

We commit to implementing the Diocesan Safeguarding Policy for Children, Young People and Adults at Risk as essential in preventing and addressing abuse in our Diocese.

All disclosures, allegations and concerns involving abuse or harm are taken seriously, treated with sensitivity and confidentiality, and reported, as required, to relevant authorities, civil and Church.

We want our young people to be safe, respected and heard, and to flourish. We want adults at risk to be respected and empowered in their decision-making, participation and well-being.

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk is the responsibility of every person in our Diocesan community.

**Most Rev. Robert McGuckin
Bishop of Toowoomba**

14 April 2023