



CHILD PROTECTION AND WELLBEING POLICY

1 Context

1.1 Context

St Vincent de Paul Society's work includes any form of help that alleviates suffering and promotes human dignity, especially for those that are most vulnerable. All children and young people (children) assisted by the Society have a right to feel and be safe. The Society recognises the personal dignity and rights of children it serves and towards whom it has a special responsibility of care and respect.

2 Policy Statement

2.1 Statement

St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland is committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and the protection of children from harm. The Society's employees, members and volunteer members (Society Representatives) will work together to create a child safe environment in which:

- (a) all children are treated with dignity and respect;
- (b) every child's right to feel safe and cared for is actively promoted;
- (c) there is no tolerance of any form of abuse, grooming, bullying or other behaviour which challenges the safety and wellbeing of children.

3 Scope

3.1 Scope

To meet its commitment, the St Vincent de Paul Society Queensland will:

- (a) develop and maintain child protection framework comprising child protection strategies and procedures relevant to areas of operation across the Society;
- (b) operate within state and federal legislative requirements relating to child protection and safety;
- (c) provide adequate induction and ongoing training to all employees, members and volunteer members;
- (d) maintain recruitment practices that ensure the most suitable and appropriate people are engaged to work with children, including consultants and contractors;
- (e) maintain screening measures that enable identification of persons who are not suitable to have contact with children the Society assists or engages with;
- (f) maintain a reporting process that enables individuals to raise concerns regarding the safety, health or wellbeing of any child, and to report those concerns where appropriate;
- (g) monitor and ensure that all individuals participating in the Society's works adhere to standards and procedures established by the Society's child protection framework.

It is the responsibility of all Society Representatives to:

- (a) maintain the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and to protect them from harm;
- (b) comply with the requirements of the Society's child protection framework;

(c) actively participate in induction and training provided by the Society.

4 Review

This policy is subject to annual review from the date of approval by the State Council. A review of the child protection framework will occur annually.

Any changes to relevant legislation or statutory requirements will result in immediate review.

Any member, volunteer or employee who wishes to make any comments about this policy may forward their suggestions to the Owner.


Mr John Forrest
State President


Mr Peter Maher
Chief Executive Officer

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Document Control

Related Documents		
Authorisation		
Approved by: State Council		
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Review every two years		
Record of Issues		
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1.0	May 2015	New issue
1.1	May 2017	Change from two yearly review to annual review in line with Government recommendations
1.2	March 2019	Conversion onto new Society format
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