



# The Congregation of the Presentation Sisters Western Australia Incorporated

## **SAFEGUARDING COMMITMENT STATEMENT**

All Presentation Sisters of Western Australia, their staff and volunteers have a zero-tolerance approach to the abuse of children and adults at risk and will, at all times, promote and maintain safe and supportive physical and online environments to ensure the well-being and protection from any form of harm or abuse of children and adults at risk. They will always act in accordance with all relevant legislative requirements and Church protocols.

All Presentation Sisters of Western Australia, their staff and volunteers are committed to:

- Acting in accordance with the PBVMWA Safeguarding Policy and the PBVMWA Code of Conduct. Each person is aware of the relevant professional and legal requirements and knows how to respond when there is knowledge or suspicion of harm to a child or adult at risk.
- Promoting the dignity of all people and to continuing to build a culture of care, inclusivity, accountability and transparency as upheld in our policies and processes, including recruitment, induction, ongoing training and daily operations.
- Having rigorous recruitment, employment and supervision processes of all lay staff which are used to ensure only suitable people are engaged to work with children and adults at risk.
- Building prevention and safeguarding practices into our everyday practice and implementing relevant governance reforms as part of the Church's commitment to promote the well-being of all people and, especially, children and adults at risk.
- Maintaining appropriate boundaries and exercising acceptable standards of behaviour at all times, especially when interacting with children and adults at risk.
- Reporting any concerns regarding abuse or harm to a child or adult at risk to the Congregation Leader and/or Safeguarding Officer, in accordance with all Church protocols and all the relevant W.A. legislative requirements.
- Ensuring that any complaint of abuse, current or historic, brought against them is responded to compassionately, appropriately and in a timely manner in accordance with all established legislative requirements and Church protocols.
- Ensuring that appropriate support is offered to the individual and family of a person who may have suffered harm.
- Treating with justice, sensitivity, compassion and appropriate confidentiality all persons who are involved in an allegation of abuse.
- Providing access to Professional Pastoral Supervision, annual Performance Appraisal and ongoing Professional Development activities to Presentation Sisters and staff in active Ministry.