



The Institute of Notre Dame des Missions Inc
Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions

Safeguarding Commitment Statement

- The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions are actively committed to fostering environments of safeguarding that promote the respect, dignity and rights of all children and vulnerable adults. This commitment is based on our Founding charism of Euphrasie Barbier – Trinitarian Spirituality, which is expressed today by RNDM's in a growing belief in the Spirit immanent in all creation, and in expressing in their daily interaction with others, values such as respect, mutuality, reciprocity and equality of each human person.
- Every person within the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions who come in contact or work with children or vulnerable adults is committed to respect the dignity of all children and vulnerable adults and establish safe and appropriate relationships.
- We have open, transparent communication where all stakeholders, families and communities are kept informed and invited to participate in decision making regarding safety of children and vulnerable adults. It is also important that environments are such that they empower children and vulnerable adults to speak and to be listened to.
- We actively seek to be alert to, and informed of, the causes and signs of child or vulnerable adult abuse and neglect. On becoming aware of these signs, we respond accordingly and report any such concerns to the appropriate authority. This would include contacting police immediately where there may be the risk of harm to any person, especially a child or vulnerable adult.

- The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions have documented policies and procedures and a Code of Conduct to prevent risks to children and vulnerable adults and uphold a culture of safeguarding. All Sisters, Staff and Volunteers are expected to follow these policies and procedures and contribute to the safety and protection of all children and vulnerable adults.
- Our risk management policy ensures that we proactively consider potential risks and strive to make sure that risks are reduced and eliminated where possible. Everyone is encouraged to communicate any area of concern or where you think our approach may need improvement.
- Anyone who presents a suspicion, concern, knowledge or allegation of current or past abuse of a child or vulnerable adult to the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions will be responded to sensitively, respectfully, actively and in a timely manner in line with our lawful obligations and our Complaints Handling Policy.
- Regular internal and external auditing is undertaken of our Safeguarding Policies and practices to ensure that they always support a culture and practice that puts the safety of children and vulnerable adults as a priority. We listen to the voices of children and vulnerable adults as we constantly strive to remain vigilant and improve our procedures.

**For more information or to raise a concern, please contact our
Safeguarding Coordinator**

Sister Madeleine Barlow mbarlowrndm-1@bigpond.com

Catherine Brabender

Sr Catherine Brabender RNDM
Province Leader
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