



DOMINICAN EDUCATION AUSTRALIA LTD (DEA) STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

DEA hold that the care, safety and wellbeing of children, young people and adults at risk is one founded on our Catholic belief that each person is made in the image and likeness of God and therefore is worthy of infinite love and respect.

In committing ourselves to the safety of children and young people, we are being faithful to the message of the Gospel and living out our shared Dominican values.

Dominican Education Australia (DEA) and its six Education Ministries have a mission driven responsibility to actively foster safe communities which recognise and uphold the dignity and rights of children, young people, and adults at risk.

DEA has a zero tolerance for child abuse. DEA Trustees and staff, as well as leaders and staff in the Education Ministries, are expected to deal with allegations and safety concerns immediately and consistently with their legal obligations, safeguarding policies and maintain a strong culture of care and protection for all children, young people, and adults at risk.

DEA is committed to embedding a child safe culture in all Ministries where children and young people are respected, their voices are heard, and they are safe and feel safe. Particular attention is given to the needs of vulnerable children and young people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, children and young people with a disability, children and young people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, those who might experience mental health issues or who are unable to live at home, and those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex.

We encourage open communication whereby families and communities are informed of relevant issues and participate in decisions about the safety of children and vulnerable adults. It is important to us to seek ways that the voices of children and adults at risk are heard.

DEA and its schools demonstrate commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people by:

- taking into consideration and taking seriously the views of children and young people about decisions that affect their safety and wellbeing;
- responding swiftly to any child safety concerns and implementing clear procedures for managing and reporting child safety concerns; and ensuring that every person involved in DEA and its schools understands the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make;
- providing regular training and education on recognising the nature and indicators of child abuse and other harm, responding to safeguarding risks and how to build culturally safe environments for children and young people;
- recognising and acknowledging the unique needs of victims and survivors of child abuse, both historical and current, by providing them with genuine care and pastoral support;
- applying robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff, contractors and volunteers.

For more information or to raise a concern, please contact:

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Document History

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