



# Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy

**Issue Date:** 22 September 2023

**Review Date:** September 2025

## 1.0 Purpose

According to its Constitution, the Australian Lasallian (Asia/Pacific) Foundation Ltd, more commonly known as the Lasallian Foundation, “is a mission of the Roman Catholic Church. It is established for the purpose of delivering overseas aid activities through the provision of direct relief and assistance to persons in necessitous circumstances in developing countries.” The Foundation exists to fund, sponsor and implement projects.

This safeguarding policy is built on the foundation of Lasallian Values, our faith traditions, the requirements of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) and the social justice teaching of the Catholic Church. It is subservient to the *Safeguarding Children and at Risk Policy of the District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea*.

The Lasallian Foundation is committed to the safeguarding of children, young people and adults at risk. Safeguarding is a matter for all; however, the Lasallian Foundation acknowledges the specific needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island People, the elderly, those living with disability, and/or suffering from illness, individuals from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds, children in out of home care, those who are homeless, and children and adults of diverse sexuality. The Lasallian Foundation will work with its partners and stakeholders to raise awareness of the dignity and rights of all children and adults.

Children, young people, and adults at risk have a fundamental right to be respected, nurtured, and safeguarded by all. Accordingly, this policy sets out what is always required in the clear expectation that and under all circumstances, everyone will uphold the ethical and moral commitment that is due to those served by the Foundation. **The Lasallian Foundation has zero tolerance towards any form of abuse or exploitation.**

## 2.0 Scope

The purpose of the Lasallian Foundation is to be a ministry of the Catholic Church and as such it has a responsibility to ensure compliance with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards as approved by the Catholic Church.

Accordingly, this policy applies to all who engage with the Lasallian Foundation and as such includes Brothers and all associated with them, Board Members, employees, donors, contractors and volunteers and relates to all activities which involve, result in, or relate to contact with children, young people or adults at risk.

### **3.0 Engagement**

Empowering children and adults to have a say in decisions that affect them is an integral part of every safe organisation. The Lasallian Foundation must connect with children and their families, and the broader community so that all understand how and why decisions are made, where to go for information and help and how to raise concerns.

The Lasallian Foundation will maintain an effective complaints management system, adopt best practice records management and ensure that all concerns are responded to promptly and sensitively.

### **4.0 Prevention and Protection**

The Lasallian Foundation has a shared responsibility to ensure that no harm comes to children, young people and/or adults at risk through its actions, and that at all times the best interests of a child and/or children, young people and adults at risk is a primary consideration.

Lasallian Foundation personnel have the responsibility to meet the safeguarding and child protection laws of the jurisdictions in which the Foundation operates.

The Chair of the Lasallian Foundation shall be the Safeguarding Officer for the Foundation.

#### **All those engaged by the Lasallian Foundation must:**

- demonstrate in both their public and private lives behaviours which bear witness to Catholic and Lasallian values and commitment to safeguarding
- report any actual or suspected harm to a child, young person or adult at risk
- engage with and demonstrate their understanding of Lasallian Foundation policies related to safeguarding and engage with all training required to maintain currency of knowledge
- engage in honest, respectful communication with children, young people and adults at risk, and welcome and encourage feedback
- ensure that clear information is provided to children, young people and their families about activities, their rights and responsibilities and provide access to support and feedback mechanisms
- ensure that the voice of children, young people and adults at risk is sought, and included within the design of activities, works and advocacy

#### **All those in Leadership/Governance Positions must:**

- commit to championing a culture where safeguarding and wellbeing practices are demonstrated through practice and action
- provide opportunities for participation of children, adults and the community in the development of policies and practices related to safeguarding
- ensure that children and adults at risk are informed as to their rights
- develop practices to participate and validate safeguarding compliance and a culture of ongoing practice improvement
- develop mechanisms for the monitoring of risk, including risk controls and treatments
- appoint a Board member to be the safeguarding co-ordinator with clearly defined safeguarding responsibilities
- develop a continuous improvement practice framework which includes reviewing incidents and complaints to identify systemic issues or patterns and through undertaking self-audits
- develop and maintain systems and processes to ensure ongoing education, socialisation and activations of policies and procedures
- ensure compliance with all policies, procedures and reporting requirements; and

- contribute to the ongoing development of safeguarding with other Lasallian entities across the District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

## 5.0 Compliance

In the event of the Lasallian Foundation policy being overridden by Jurisdictional legislation then official certification of compliance will be required to be provided. In Jurisdictions where there is no statutory requirements for safeguarding, the provisions of this Policy will apply.

This policy is subservient to the *Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk Policy* of the District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

## 6.0 Relevant legislation and standards

This policy reflects the principles of the following:

- The United Nations *Convention on the Rights of the Child*;
- National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (Australia)
- National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
- Relevant Child Safeguarding/Protection legislation of the relevant jurisdictions; and
- Integrity in Ministry – Principles and Standards for Catholic Clergy and Religious
- Integrity in Service – Principles and Standards for Lay Workers
- National Response Protocol -Adopted by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

## 7.0 Related District Policies and Procedures

The Lasallian Foundation will support and adhere to the policies of the District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea which include, but are not limited to:

- Safeguarding Commitment Statement
- District Code of Conduct
- Disclosure of Abuse or Harm Policy
- Child Safeguarding Risk Management Plan

## 8.0 Policy Status and Review

This policy is approved by the Lasallian Foundation Board and will be reviewed every two years. The advice of the District Safeguarding Officer will be sought to ensure that the policy complies with regulations and best practice in safeguarding.

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(Print Name)

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(Signature)

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(Date)