

# AUGUSTINIANS



## PROVINCE OF OUR MOTHER OF GOOD COUNSEL AUSTRALASIA

### INTRODUCTION TO SAFEGUARDING

*'There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children'*

#### **INTRODUCTION AND COMMITMENT**

'The Order of St Augustine in Australasia' is committed to fostering communities of safety and care for all people, especially for children and vulnerable adults. Our commitment is underscored by a faith in Jesus Christ who teaches the fundamental sanctity of each human person, and by our dedication to sustained education, practice, and conversation about our moral and spiritual obligation to 'safeguard' all those within the community.

The Augustinians have adopted the *National Catholic Safeguarding Standards* from *Catholic Professional Standards Ltd*. The Order falls under Category 1, 'Working With Children'.

All personnel (both priests and lay) will undergo training in Safeguarding and will receive a Code of Conduct document required to be signed, and a copy of all policies. A 'Commitment to Safeguarding' statement is displayed in all Augustinians houses and offices.

The Augustinians regard safeguarding as everyone's responsibility and take a zero-tolerance approach to any form of abuse, and particularly child abuse.

#### **BRIEF HISTORY AND LEADERSHIP**

The Augustinians, a religious order of priests within the Catholic Church, first arrived in Australia in 1838. They are located in the states of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

Their work is underpinned by their love of Jesus Christ and the ongoing development of interiority and prayerfulness in community. They seek to live together in accordance with the charism of St Augustine 'in unity of mind and heart on the way to God'. Their work involves teaching (there are two schools - St Augustine's College Brookvale, NSW and Villanova College, Coorparoo Qld), parish work, indigenous outreach (via the Augustinian Volunteers Australia) and other pastoral work. They also oversee Augustinian activities in both South Korea and Vietnam.

The current Prior Provincial is Fr Peter Jones OSA who along with the Provincial Council make decisions regarding the strategy and direction of the Order.

The Provincial Council has delegated all safeguarding matters to the 'Professional Standards Team', which is headed by Fr Dave Austin OSA who is the Co-ordinator, Professional Standards.