

LORETO PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA & SOUTH EAST ASIA



LORETO

Australia & South East Asia

COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

The Loreto Province of Australia and South East Asia (Province) forms part of the worldwide Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM). The Province was established in 1875 by Mother Gonzaga Barry and her companions who came to Australia from Ireland. Faithful to the vision and mission of their founder, Mary Ward (1585-1645), members of the IBVM ('the Loreto Sisters') are committed to promoting a shared mission to transform the Church and the world by seeking truth and doing justice. The Province comprises of Loreto Sisters and those in formation to become Loreto Sisters. They are joined by a 'circle of friends' comprising of board directors, committee members, staff of Loreto schools and ministries, volunteers, and employees of the Province, Loreto Ministries Limited, Loreto Vietnam, Mary Ward International Australia, and the ministries in the Philippines, and Timor-Leste.

Since its inception, the Province's educational, social, spiritual, and pastoral ministries have served children.

In keeping with the values of the Gospel, our Mary Ward heritage and Catholic Social Teaching, the Loreto Sisters and all who work or volunteer in Province ministries, uphold the dignity of the human person and the right of every person to flourish in an environment that is safe and supportive, caring and compassionate, nurturing and life-affirming. The ongoing safety and wellbeing of children is the primary focus of care and decision making, with particular attention paid to the safety and wellbeing of those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and those with a disability.

In particular, we are committed to safeguarding children participating in our programs and ministries, both within Australia and overseas, from:

- emotional abuse
- exploitation
- neglect
- physical violence
- sexual abuse
- witnessing family violence

As part of this commitment, the Province has adopted the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. These Principles, which complement our Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct and underpin our Child Safe Policy, are designed to:

- create an environment where children's safety and wellbeing are at the centre of our thoughts, values, and actions
- place emphasis on genuine engagement with and respect of children
- create conditions that reduce the likelihood of harm to children
- create conditions that increase the likelihood of identifying any harm
- provide a framework for responding to any concerns, disclosures, allegations, or suspicions of harm.

Anyone with concerns, disclosures, allegations, or suspicions should refer to the Contact Us page on the [Province website](#) or contact our Professional Standards Officer, Simon Davies, by phone +61 (03) 9378 8516 or by email at info@safeguardingservices.com.au

This commitment to child safety through the provision of a safe environment is approved and endorsed by the Province Leader and her Council.

Wendy Hildebrand IBVM

Wendy Hildebrand ibvm Province Leader
Loreto Province of Australia & South East Asia

September 2020