



Diocese of Wangaratta SAFE CHURCH

Statement of Commitment

The Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta, including all ministry units within the Diocese, has zero tolerance for abuse.

All people, including children and vulnerable adults, have the right to be respected and valued and to feel emotionally, physically and spiritually safe at all times.

We are committed to providing a safe, respectful, welcoming and positive environment for children and adults from all backgrounds.

We will:

- listen to anyone who raises concerns, take their concerns seriously, respond with respect and compassion and take appropriate action;
- report disclosures or suspicions of abuse according to our procedures and as required by law;
- ensure procedures are clear, appropriate and effective for responding to allegations of abuse; and
- provide support to those involved and seek appropriate help for a just and fair resolution.

We have a Safe Church Policy that applies to all ministry and administrative units within the Diocese. The policy is available online at www.wangaratta-anglican.org.au or from the Registry. Each parish council also has a copy of the policy.

Making a Notification

If you have experienced abuse or suspect abuse may be occurring in a church setting or by a member of the church, you should report this as soon as possible to the Director of Professional Standards on:

1800 135 246

or email professionalstandards@wangaratta-anglican.org.au

The Director of Professional Standards responds to all complaints of misconduct including sexual, spiritual or emotional abuse by clergy, lay leaders or other church members.

When calling the 1800 number you will be asked to provide your name and contact details so that the Director can follow up with you.

Alternatively you can write to:

Director of Professional Standards
Anglican Diocese of Wangaratta
PO Box 329
Canterbury VIC 3126

All information provided to the Director of Professional Standards will be handled in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

More information on reporting processes, policies and procedures, including our privacy statement and policy, is available on our website or by contacting the Registry on 03 5721 3484.

Professional Standards Services are provided to the Diocese of Wangaratta by Kooyoora Ltd. www.kooyoora.org.au

Emergency Support Contact Lines

If you are in danger or have been harmed and need immediate help, call 000.

If you need help you can also call:

Your local police station

or the following support services -

General / Mental Health Support

Kids Help Line **1800 55 1800**
Lifeline **13 11 14**
Suicide Line **1300 651 251**
Beyond Blue (& Youth Beyond Blue) **1300 22 4636**

Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Support

1800RESPECT **1800 737 732**
Sexual Assault Crisis Line (Victoria) **1800 806 292**
Rape Crisis Line (NSW) **1800 424 017**

Sexual Assault Counselling Australia **1800 211 028**

For those affected by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Assault