

**LIVING WATERS LUTHERAN COLLEGE**  
**Statement of Commitment to Child Safety**



**As a Lutheran School with a mission to share the love of Jesus as we educate and care for children we are committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people in the Living Waters Lutheran College community.**

This public statement from the Board and Executive of the College confirms our commitment to the protection of children from abuse and grooming is designed to be a demonstration of our resolve to champion child safety in all College environments.

The Statement is communicated through our public website and staff intranet, as well as through the College's annual report and in induction and welcome packs.

Safety and wellbeing of all children and young people will be the primary focus of our care and decision-making.

**Living Waters Lutheran College has zero tolerance for child abuse.**

Living Waters Lutheran College is committed to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention will be paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children with a disability.

Every person involved in the College community has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make.

In its planning, decision-making and operations Living Waters Lutheran College will:

1. Take a preventative, proactive and participatory approach to child safety;
2. Value and empower children to participate in decisions which affect their lives;
3. Foster a culture of openness that supports all persons to safely disclose risks of harm to children;
4. Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount;
5. Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children;
6. Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development;
7. Ensure children know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues;
8. Report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authorities;

9. Share information appropriately and lawfully with other organisations where the safety and wellbeing of children is at risk; and
10. Value the input of and communicate regularly with families and carers.

### **Responsibilities**

The College acknowledges that child protection is everyone’s responsibility. At Living Waters Lutheran College all Members of the College Board, staff members, Volunteers, Third Party Contractors and External Education Providers have a shared responsibility for contributing to the safety and protection of children.

### **Review**

The College Board and executive staff commit to review child protection policies annually to ensure compliance with all relevant child protection laws and regulations allowing the College to maintain a safe environment conducive to the promotion of child wellbeing.

### **Linked policies**

Child Safe Framework

Whistleblower

Child Protection

Mandatory Reporting

Statement on Bullying and Harassment

Code of Conduct

Grievance Procedure

<b>Statement of Commitment to Child Safety</b>		
<b>Version</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
V1	Ratified by College Board	29 Jul 19
	Review	29 Jul 20