



## Safeguarding Children and Young People Statement

CatholicCare NT is a not-for-profit organisation providing services to:

- adults (individuals, couples and families)
- children and young people between the ages of 0 to 25 years

Our organisation operates throughout the Northern Territory and provides a variety of programs focusing on Family and Community Services, Alcohol and Other Drug Services and Employment Services.

We take seriously our responsibility to deliver a supportive environment that is caring, nurturing and safe. Our Management Team and staff are committed to providing social services that strengthen individuals, families and communities inclusive of children and young people.

In particular, we are committed to safeguarding the children and young people in our care from:

### Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is any act in which a person with power or authority over a child (female or male) uses a child for sexual gratification. An abuser can be an adult, adolescent or older child.

Sexual abuse spans a range of contact and non-contact behaviour. Non-contact behaviour includes:

- making sexual comments (in person, in letters, or by telephone, text messages or email)
- voyeurism – including commenting on physical attractiveness
- exposing a child to pornography
- nudity – an abuser exposing parts of their body or the child's body

Contact behaviour includes:

- fondling or kissing
- sexual penetration
- exploiting a child through prostitution

### Physical abuse

Physical abuse occurs when a parent or caregiver subjects a child to non-accidental physically aggressive acts. The abuser may inflict an injury intentionally or inadvertently as a result of physical punishment or the aggressive treatment of a child. Physically abusive behaviour includes (but is not limited to) shoving, hitting, slapping, shaking, throwing, punching, biting, burning and kicking.

## Emotional or psychological abuse

Emotional or psychological abuse occurs when a caregiver or parent repeatedly rejects or threatens a child. Often there is a pattern of emotional or psychological abuse, rather than a single incident. Such abuse may involve humiliating, terrorising, name-calling, belittlement, inappropriate symbolic acts or continual coldness from the caregiver or parent, to an extent that results in significant damage to the child's physical, intellectual or emotional wellbeing and development.

## Neglect

Neglect occurs when a parent or caregiver fails to provide a child with the basic necessities of life. Such neglect includes the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical attention or supervision to the extent that the child's health and development is, or is likely to be, significantly harmed.

## Witnessing Family Violence

Witnessing family violence is a specific form of emotional or psychological abuse. Family violence is defined as violence between members of a family or extended family or those fulfilling the role of family in a child or young person's life. Exposure to family violence places children and young people at increased risk of physical injury and harm and has a significant impact on their wellbeing and development.

We expect all within our organisation, regardless of their role or level of responsibility, to act to safeguard children from such harm by:

- adopting the practices and behaviour we have set as our standard when carrying out their roles
- reporting any abuse or neglect of which they become aware to our management and/or to external authorities responsible for child protection or to police, regardless of whether that abuse is being perpetrated by personnel within our organisation, or by those outside our organisation including those from the child's family, extended family, their family's extended network or strangers

Our organisation's commitment to providing a safe environment for the children and young people to whom we provide services is endorsed and approved at the highest levels of our organisation.

By order of  
The Management Team of **CatholicCare NT**

Represented by:

Signed: 

Name: Jayne Lloyd

Position: Director

Date: 4 March 2014