

# Child Safety Statement

## Our commitment to Child Safety

The Brotherhood of St Laurence is committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of young people who interact with or are supported by our services and programs. We are also committed to complying with all relevant child safe standards established by the Victoria Government.

We acknowledge all children and young people have the right to feel and be safe. The Brotherhood of St Laurence operates a zero tolerance approach towards child abuse and all allegations or safety concerns will be treated seriously and consistent with our policies and procedures.

We have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are concerned about a child or young person's safety which we follow rigorously. We are committed to preventing child abuse and identifying risks early, and removing and reducing these risks.

We have in place robust human resources and recruitment practices for all personnel. We are committed to ensuring our staff and volunteers are educated on child abuse risks and mandatory reporting requirements.

We promote diversity and people from all cultures and backgrounds are welcome. In particular we promote the cultural safety, participation and empowerment of:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people
- Children and young people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Children and young people with disability

The Brotherhood of St Laurence has a Child and Youth Safe Organisation policy that is available on our website. If you would like to find out more about the Brotherhood's commitment to child safety you can visit our website [www.bsl.org.au](http://www.bsl.org.au)

If you would like to raise a concern or would like specific information about the Brotherhood's Child Safe policies you can contact the Brotherhood's dedicated Child Safe Officer, Mara Erhardt-Rumpe.

**Child Safe Officer** [mara.erhardt-rumpe@bsl.org.au](mailto:mara.erhardt-rumpe@bsl.org.au) or via 9483 1179



Tony Nicholson

Executive Director

1<sup>st</sup> March 2017