

## Child Safe Statement of Commitment

Marist180 is committed to being a child safe organisation that places the safety, wellbeing, and rights of children and young people at the heart of all we do.

We recognise the unique vulnerabilities of children and young people in care, and the importance of creating safe, culturally responsive, trauma-informed environments.

Marist180 upholds the NSW Child Safe Standards and National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, embedding these into our culture, systems, and practice.

### Our Commitment to Children and Young People

We ensure all children and young people in our care are safe, supported, and empowered. We commit to:

- Listening to children and young people, and involving them in decisions that affect them.
- Respecting each child's identity, culture, abilities, and lived experience
- Ensuring they know who to speak to if they feel unsafe and are supported when they do.
- Responding appropriately to any disclosures, concerns, or complaints.
- Providing culturally safe supports, advocacy, and interpreters as required.

### Our Commitment to Carers, Families, and Culture

We value the role of carers, families, and kin in safeguarding children. We commit to:

- Partnering with carers, families, and kin to support safe and stable placements.
- Upholding cultural identity and community connection, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- Applying the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle.
- Welcoming and involving families in care planning and decisions.
- Promoting inclusive practices that respect diverse backgrounds.

### Child Safe Organisation

We foster a child safe culture by:

- Embedding the child safe standards into our values, governance and decision-making.
- Robust recruitment, screening, and supervision practices.

- Training staff and carers with the knowledge and tools to uphold a child safe and inclusive culture.
- Maintaining a Code of Conduct outlining expected behaviour.
- Encouraging a culture where concerns can be raised safely.

## **Safe Environments – Physical and Online**

We ensure safe spaces - both physical and digital - for children and young people by:

- Identifying and managing risks in all environments.
- Applying policies on technology and online safety.
- Educating staff, carers, and children on safe online behaviour.
- Preventing unauthorised or unsafe online contact.
- Reviewing our digital practices to ensure age-appropriate safeguards.
- Enforcing a zero tolerance for abuse or neglect of a young person in our care.

## **Continuous Improvement and Accountability**

We are committed to ongoing improvement through:

- Regularly reviewing safeguarding policies and practices.
- Engaging in audits, incident reviews, and stakeholder consultation.
- Addressing and learning from allegations, complaints and feedback to improve outcomes.
- Reporting transparently, with governance oversight of child safety performance.

This Statement of Commitment reflects Marist180's undertaking to protect and empower children and young people. Our intention is to deliver quality, child-centred services in all our undertakings, grounded in safety, respect, participation, and cultural connection.