

## **Introduction**

Catholic Education Northern Territory, as a ministry of the Catholic Church, upholds the overarching Diocese of Darwin Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Prevention and Protection Policy, and is committed to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

In the Northern Territory, legislation promotes the wellbeing of all persons, including children, and provides measures to safeguard the wellbeing of children and the protection of all persons. One of these measures is Mandatory Reporting. The CENT Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy is an overarching policy in Catholic schools, promoting the wellbeing of children and young people.

This policy also meets the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards developed to focus on safeguarding practices for the protection of children. The Standards take into account the guidance of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

## **Policy Statement**

Catholic Education is committed to providing a safe environment and activities which promote the dignity and worth of all persons and supports the care, wellbeing and protection of children, young people and vulnerable persons.

Catholic Education is committed to:

- compliance with relevant legislation, including the legal responsibilities of Mandatory Reporting
- the execution of the Mandatory Reporting Training procedures and programs necessary to support and implement this policy.

## **Scope**

This policy applies to all who work in Catholic Education; the employees, volunteers and other personnel who work in the schools, colleges, Early Learning Centres, preschools, Out of Hours School Care facilities and in the Catholic Education Office.

There are two procedures to this policy -

1. The Mandatory Reporting requirements of the Care and Protection of Children Act (NT) which is safeguarding the wellbeing and safety of children; and
2. The Mandatory Reporting requirements of the Domestic and Family Violence Act (NT) which ensures protection of all persons, including children, who experience or are exposed to domestic/family violence.

## Roles and Responsibilities

Catholic Education NT will ensure that:

- leaders are inducted in their responsibilities in ensuring Mandatory Reporting training is provided in each school, college, Early Learning Centre, preschool, Out of Hours School Care facility and in the Catholic Education Office every year
- this policy and training are reviewed every year in order to comply with the legal responsibilities, and reporting obligations (mandatory reporting). There are two procedures linked to this policy:
  - *Mandatory Reporting - Harm to a Child Procedure*
  - *Mandatory Reporting - Safety and Protection of all Persons Exposed to Domestic and Family Violence Procedure*

Leaders will ensure that:

- training is available for employees and volunteers in each school, college, Early Learning Centre, preschool, Out of Hours School Care and in the Catholic Education Office in their responsibilities and legal obligations of Mandatory Reporting
- records are kept of the Participation in Mandatory Reporting Training of staff in schools, colleges, Early Learning Centres, preschools, Out of Hours School Care and the Catholic Education Office.

## Related Legislation, Policy and Documents

- Care and Protection of Children Act (NT)
- Criminal Code Act (NT)
- Education and Care Services (National Uniform Legislation) Act
- Education and Care Services Regulations
- Sexual Offences (Evidence and Procedure) Act
- Domestic and Family Violence Act (NT)
- Information Sharing Guidelines (2012) NT
- Northern Territory Domestic and Family Violence Information Sharing Guidelines
- CENT Pastoral Care and Wellbeing Policy
- CENT Child and Risk Management Strategy
- National Catholic Safeguarding Standards

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