



**ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA**

**A SUMMARY OF OUR
SAFEGUARDING
CHILDREN, YOUNG
PEOPLE & VULNERABLE
ADULTS POLICY**

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

1. Introduction

This is a Summary of the full Australian Association of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta ("Order of Malta") "Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults Policy" ("the Policy"). To obtain a full version of the latest document please request one from the person who gave you this Summary.

2. Policy Scope

The Policy and accompanying documents applies to all people, whether paid or unpaid, acting on behalf of or otherwise representing the Order of Malta and to all activities undertaken by the Order of Malta in any location globally. If someone has asked you to read and agree to comply with this Summary, the Policy applies to you.

The primary aim of the Policy is to ensure a safe environment for Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults ("Children and Vulnerable Persons") who have contact with you and other Order of Malta's personnel in the course of Order of Malta activities in order to prevent their neglect, harm, abuse or exploitation, of any kind.

3. Policy Purpose and Roles and Responsibilities

Recognising the personal dignity, fundamental freedoms and rights of Children and Vulnerable Persons towards whom the Order of Malta has a special responsibility of care and respect. As such, you and the Order of Malta commit to providing a safe environment to prevent abuse of any kind and have certain safeguarding duties and responsibilities outlined in this Summary. Along with those duties and responsibilities are mechanisms to prevent report and respond to safeguarding issues.

You must comply with the Policy when in contact with Children and Vulnerable Persons.

Certain members and office-holders have additional responsibilities set out in the Policy.

4. Legislation, Related Documents and Equality Policy

The Policy was developed to comply both with Australian legislation and with the 2019 National Catholic

Safeguarding Standards. In case of any unidentified inconsistency with the legislation in force, you are expected to comply with the law.

The Order of Malta commits to comply with anti-discrimination legislation in each Australian jurisdiction. You are expected to respect the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith and the traditions of the Order.

5. Promotion of Policy Awareness

The Order of Malta commits to making the Policy and complaints procedures available to you either upon request or on its website.

Communication about safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Persons is a two-way process. In order to ensure you are up to date in safeguarding training and procedures you are expected to:

- Attend designated training sessions.
- Attend the routine briefings and debriefings for each Order of Malta activity.
- Read any safeguarding information communicated by the Order of Malta through whichever channels are most appropriate.
- Provide feedback or submit reports as appropriate.

6. Policy Implementation

Various safety checks are in place to provide as safe an environment as possible for Children and Vulnerable Persons in contact with Order of Malta's personnel.

Before engaging in Order of Malta's activities for Children and Vulnerable Persons, you must have a current Working with Children or with Vulnerable People Check from the jurisdiction where you are resident.

If you notice any abuse or have any suspicions or concerns about abuse or identify a risk of abuse, you must report it without delay to the Safeguarding Focal Point ("SFP") or the Safeguarding Officer ("SGO"). You are also encouraged to make the same report or any whistle-blowing to external agencies and law enforcement bodies.

You must be aware that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed to anyone who raises concerns with you or if you make a safeguarding report. This is because there may be duties to disclose certain information in any

safeguarding report to relevant authorities to ensure the safety and welfare of Children and Vulnerable Persons. However, all records and personal or sensitive information will be properly stored and accessed and all reports will be handled with impartiality, fairness, and timeliness.

If you do not agree to comply with the principles and standards of the Policy, then you cannot engage in Order of Malta's activities.

7. Induction/Training

All Order of Malta's personnel are expected to read the Policy as well as attend induction and training intended to increase knowledge of types and signs of abuse.

During the Order of Malta's pilgrimages and the Asia Pacific Summer Camps hosted by the Order of Malta in Australia members of the dedicated medical team and volunteers are available to listen to any concerns raised and have mandatory reporting obligations.

8. Breach of Policy

Any breach of the Policy will result in the Order of Malta determining which measures to apply to the person in breach. Potential measures include, but are not limited to, issuing a warning, requiring further training, suspension or termination of engagement, and reporting to relevant authorities.

9. Child Safe Recruitment and Screening of Order of Malta Personnel

All applicants to Order of Malta activities are required to provide/state/hold the following:

- A criminal record check.
- Referees with experience of the applicant's work/ character.
- That you do not engage in and have not been charged with or convicted of a criminal offence that would be contrary to the nature, intentions, and activities of the Order of Malta and its personnel.
- A current Working with Children Check, or equivalent, from the jurisdiction you live in.

10. Personal Conduct

Before you can volunteer on Order of Malta's activities you must agree to comply with the 'Code of Conduct'. The 'Code of Conduct' is provided to you in a separate document. You commit to maintaining a high standard of personal conduct throughout Order of Malta activities.

11. Procedure in the Event of a Report of Abuse

The Order of Malta considers the welfare of Children and Vulnerable Persons to be the paramount consideration in any instance of disclosure or suspicion. To that end, all reports will be communicated to the Safeguarding Officer and investigated promptly.

Children and Vulnerable Persons the subject of or affected by a report of abuse are to be removed to and kept in a place of safety.

Anybody implicated by a report of abuse is to be removed from and take no further part in any Order of Malta's activity until the report has been investigated and resolved.

When the Order of Malta receives a report all appropriate external authorities will be informed and the Order of Malta will conduct an internal investigation.

12. Managing Information

Information the Order of Malta receives will be handled in accordance with its Privacy Policy.

13. Policy Review

The Policy will be reviewed annually and updated as appropriate. The next review is scheduled for November 2022.





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