

# Statement of Commitment: Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults



As a Child Safe Organisation, Mater upholds the *Child Safe Organisations Act 2024* and extends its safeguarding commitment to all vulnerable persons across the lifespan, aligning with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards and has zero tolerance for abuse, harm, or neglect.

**Mater is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children, young people and adults at risk who attend our facilities or who engage in our services.**

**Consistent with our Mission, Values and Code of Conduct, all Mater People – employees, Board members, volunteers, students, visitors and contractors – have a responsibility to respect, protect and promote the welfare, dignity and human rights of children, young people and adults at risk.**

**We achieve this by committing to:**

- Fostering a culture of safety across Mater.
- Promoting the rights of at-risk and vulnerable children, young people and adults to feel safe, valued, listened to, and informed to make decisions about their care.
- Recognising the diversity, cultural safety and other unique needs of priority groups including Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, culturally and/or linguistically diverse, people living with a mental health concern and/or a disability, and people who identify as LGBTQIA+.
- Working in partnership with consumers, communities, and agencies to ensure a coordinated and collaborative response.
- Delivering healthcare in physical and online environments that promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children, young people and adults to be harmed.
- Remaining vigilant to emerging risks and opportunities to continuously improve health care services.
- Supporting Mater People to access and complete required education to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and awareness about behavioural expectations to keep children, young people and adults safe.
- Meeting legal and ethical obligations to safeguard and protect children, young people and adults from harm, including a duty to identify and report a suspicion that a child, young person or vulnerable adult is at risk of being or has been abused, harmed or neglected.
- Establishing a responsive and easily accessible complaints and feedback process, and responding sensitively, respectfully, and in a timely way, to anyone who brings forward an allegation of current or past abuse, and to have a process in place to respond to these concerns in a trauma informed manner.
- Maintaining and managing policies and procedures that build a strong culture of governance and leadership in safeguarding and protecting children, young people and adults.
- Embedding robust recruitment strategies to ensure Mater People are suitable and supported to reflect safety and wellbeing values in practice.



**Julia Strickland-Bellamy**  
Group Chief Executive

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[mater.org.au](https://mater.org.au)