



BSL Child Safety Statement

Our commitment to Child Safety

The Brotherhood of St Laurence (BSL) is committed to the safety, participation and empowerment of children, young people and adults who interact with, or are supported by, our services and programs, especially the most vulnerable.

We acknowledge all children and young people have the right to feel safe and to be safe.

BSL has zero-tolerance to all forms of child abuse and violence and condemns all forms of exploitation, abuse and harm of children.

BSL complies with the mandatory reporting required by Australian Federal and State Governments. We have comprehensive policies and procedures in place to protect all program participants from harm. Extra screening measures, such as behavioural-based interview questions, are used when hiring for positions that involve working directly with children.

All board, staff and volunteers undertake orientation in our policies and procedures, as well as a National Police Check and Working with Children Check (or state equivalent for all staff in child-related occupations) and must agree to observe policies and understand the disciplinary action for any policy violations.

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 by identifying risks early and removing and reducing these risks. 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. We give particular attention to promoting 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.

BSL has a Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy that is available on our website.

If you would like to find out more about BSL's commitment to child safety, go to www.bsl.org.au

If you want to raise a concern or would like specific information about the BSL's Safeguarding policy, you can contact our Child Safe Officer – Melinda Gregory: melinda.gregory@bsl.org.au Phone: 0491 156 809.

The Brotherhood of St Laurence has a confidential Whistle-blower Hotline through Stoline (an independent and external service). Stoline enables reports to be made anonymously and confidentially. All reports are investigated. Phone: 1300 304 550. Email: BSL@stoline.com.au

Handwritten signature of Travers McLeod in blue ink.

Travers McLeod, Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Stephen Newton in blue ink.

Stephen Newton AO, Board Chair

18 July 2022