



Enabling Families

## REPORTING ABUSE, NEGLECT, HARM AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN OR VULNERABLE ADULTS

Updated: September 2020

Xavier Children's Support Network applies the Archdiocesan Policy: Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults — Prevention and Protection, as it relates to responding to suspected and actual abuse, neglect and exploitation of children and young adults receiving Xavier care services.

Xavier recognises that children and young adults with a disability may be more vulnerable to abuse, neglect and exploitation and may have decreased capacity to respond effectively to instances of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Management, staff, children, their families, friends and carers and the community as a whole play a significant role in responding appropriately to an incident or allegation of abuse, neglect or exploitation of a child or young adult.

At Xavier we will respond and action any concern, allegation, suspicion or disclosure raised or made, whether current or historical, that indicates an employee (either current or former), including contractors and volunteers or any person associated with Xavier Children's Support Network has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or vulnerable adult, or may have harmed a child or vulnerable adult receiving Xavier services
- Committed a criminal offence against a child or vulnerable adult or related to a child or vulnerable adult receiving Xavier services
- Behaved towards a child or vulnerable adult receiving Xavier services in a way that demonstrates that they are unsuitable to work with children or vulnerable adults.

Xavier is committed to:

- The prevention of abuse, neglect and exploitation by the implementation of specific strategies
- Responding appropriately to reports of alleged cases of abuse, neglect or exploitation of a child
- Reporting suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation of a child or vulnerable adult.

Xavier upholds the following principles in relation to reporting an incident or allegation of

T 1800 XAVIER

E [intake@xavier.org.au](mailto:intake@xavier.org.au)

[xavier.org.au](http://xavier.org.au)

abuse, neglect or exploitation. Any concerned person will:

- Be able to make a report or allegation without fear of retribution or reprisal
- Have their report or allegation listened to, taken seriously and responded to appropriately
- Be informed supported to access an advocate including an independent advocate
- Be afforded basic human rights and natural justice (ie to be treated fairly and without bias and to have their right to privacy and confidentiality and the right to deal with Xavier staff without a conflict of interest).

**The benefit of the doubt should always be in favour of the victim or the one reporting the harm.**

Anyone who witnesses or is notified about an incident or allegation of abuse, neglect and exploitation in relation to a person with disability must report the incident.

Registered nurses are deemed by law to be mandatory notifiers and should they become aware, or reasonably suspect during the practice of their profession, that a child or young adult has been, is being, or is likely to be harmed they are required by law to report these concerns to the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women.

## Contacts and Phone Numbers

**Police** - use your local area police station. Where immediate harm to the child is probable phone 000.

**Xavier CEO or Managers** 1800 XAVIER or 1800 928 437 or Xavier On-Call 0420 959 130

**Director of Professional Standards** 3336 9474

**Archdiocesan Safeguarding Children Officer** 3324 3752 or [safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au](mailto:safeguarding@bne.catholic.net.au)

**NDIA** free call 1800 035 544 or email [reportableincidents@nidscommission.gov.au](mailto:reportableincidents@nidscommission.gov.au)

## Child Safety After Hours Service Centre

Outside of usual business hours, the Child Safety After Hours Service Centre:

- Provides a range of services to current clients of Child Safety Services;

- Is the contact point when you are concerned that a child has been harmed or may be at risk of harm; and
- Provides support for foster and kinship carers.

Telephone: 07 3235 9999

Freecall: 1800 177 135 (Queensland only)

Web:

<http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety/aboutus/contact-us>

## **Office of the Public Guardian**

[www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au](http://www.publicguardian.qld.gov.au)

Freecall: 1800 661 533

