



# Catholic Diocese of Wagga Wagga

## Volunteer Vulnerable Persons Code of Conduct and Declaration

All adults in a volunteering capacity, are required to have read and be familiar with this Code of Conduct, be given the opportunity to have any part explained, and to agree and sign in accepting the terms and conditions of this Code of Conduct, prior to active Parish or Agency involvement in any volunteering activity that may include regular or irregular direct contact with children or other vulnerable persons.

I, **(PRINT NAME IN CAPITALS)** .....

will:

- Conduct myself in a Christian manner through language, dress and behaviour and be a positive role model to promote the values of the Catholic Church through my words and actions.
- Act in accordance with the federal laws, and the laws, regulations and rules of the State/Territory in which the activity is hosted.
- Treat everyone with respect, loyalty, patience, integrity, courtesy, dignity and consideration. I will only use physical restraint as a last resort or in an emergency.
- Avoid all forms of unjust discrimination and respect the dignity of each person without regard to economic status, age, sex, race, ethnicity, religion, or physical or mental abilities.
- Use positive reinforcement and communication rather than criticism, unhealthy competition, or comparison.
- Adhere to emergency plans and evacuation routes at any venue and adhere to all instructions provided by venue staff.
- Uphold the authority of those responsible for the program or activity in which I am participating and assist them to engage youth participants.
- Ensure there is another adult present in any situation where I am in the presence of minors.
- Seek assistance if a young person's behaviour is causing danger to those around him or her, and if necessary, contact police.

I will not:

- Engage in any inappropriate conduct, but especially with minors and other vulnerable persons.
- Form inappropriate relationships with a young person; for instance, by placing myself in a position where a young person may come to rely on me emotionally, or by attempting to act as a surrogate parent. It is my responsibility, not the young person's, to set appropriate guidelines and boundaries. I will not show favouritism to any particular young person such as through gifts or continually showing greater attention than is given to others.
- Upload, post on social media or transmit via a mobile device embarrassing or inappropriate photos of myself or others.
- Possess, use or be under the influence of alcohol while supervising minors or while participating in the activity, or purchase alcohol for or distribute alcohol to anyone under the age of 18 years.
- Use, purchase, possess, distribute or be under the influence of illegal drugs at any time.
- Purchase, download, possess or distribute pornography.
- Participate in, or tolerate behaviour which humiliates, ridicules, threatens or degrades others.
- Use physical discipline in any way for behaviour management of others. No form of physical discipline is acceptable. This includes but is not limited to slapping, pinching, shaking, hitting or any other physical force as retaliation or correction for inappropriate behaviour of a minor or anyone else.
- Use rude or offensive language in the presence of a minor or others.

I hereby declare that I am not currently being investigated, nor have been investigated, to my knowledge; nor have I ever been charged or convicted; for an offence against any person whether an adult or a minor (including but not limited to: murder, assault, battery, sexual assault, injury to a minor, and abandoning or endangering a minor); I have never been terminated from employment or a volunteer position for reasons related to allegations of physical or sexual abuse by me; nor have I sought or received any medical, physical or psychological treatments for reasons involving physical or sexual abuse by me. I understand that should my response to any of the above statements change, I am obligated to inform Wagga Diocese Leadership immediately.

I understand that should I admit to or be found guilty of an incident of sexual misconduct of other offence against any person (as noted above), or if it appears that an alleged claim is substantiated; my involvement with the activity shall be immediately terminated.

Further, I understand that my failure to agree to and abide by this Code of Conduct will bar me from participating in the activity.

I have read the above Code of Conduct and agree to follow it. I understand that if the Code is breached then Wagga Diocese may:

- Report my misconduct to local statutory authorities, if the breach in any way violates local ordinances or laws
- Dismiss me from the activity
- Ban me from involvement in future events

\*Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Signed Original Copy to be kept on Parish/Agency Files.*

*Copy to Signee.*