

SECTION 1

Child Safeguarding POLICY

The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) is a not-for-profit organisation and is owned and operated by Salesian Society (Vic) Inc. The Fund attracts the support of donors from all States of Australia to support projects in many countries in the world.

The majority of these projects are of an on-going nature that have, in the main, been set up by Salesians and are run by local personnel. The projects are typically: schools and education centres for training in employment skills, orphanages, health and nutrition centres, and refuges for street children.

ASMOAF is committed to creating and maintaining an environment which promotes its core values and prevents abuse and sexual exploitation. ASMOAF believes that:

- All children and young people have equal rights to protection from abuse and exploitation regardless of their gender, race, religion, disability, social or cultural background, or any other distinguishing characteristic.
- Protecting children is a shared responsibility of individuals, families, communities, government and non-government agencies and corporations.
- Each child shall be cherished and affirmed as a gift from God with an inherent right to dignity of life and bodily integrity which shall be respected, nurtured and protected by all.
- Everyone has an obligation to ensure that the fundamental rights of children are respected.
- A child's right to safety and care is inalienable.
- Children have a fundamental right to justice and freedom; they have a right to be listened to and to be heard.
- Children have a right to good role models whom they can fully trust, who will respect them and nurture their spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional development.

ASMOAF will protect the rights safety and wellbeing of the children and young people with whom we come in contact during the course of our work. Children are to be safeguarded from any form of child abuse.

Our aim is to give greater emphasis and commitment to the issue of child safeguarding in our operations, as well as to ensure that all associated with ASMOAF comply with Australian law relating to the protection of children and the ACFID Code of Conduct.

This Child Safeguarding Policy (CSP) and the accompanying ASMOAF Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct and ASMOAF Child Safeguarding Guidelines have been developed to provide a practical guide to prevent child abuse in ASMOAF funded programs. The CPP is applicable to all ASMOAF representatives and specifically imposes obligations on:

- staff, consultants, contractors or volunteers in ASMOAF offices in Australia and overseas; and
- overseas program managers / partners.

ASMOAF will take all possible steps to ensure that programs undertaken with local partners are safe for children, particularly international programs that work directly with children (refer to ASMOAF Child Safeguarding Guidelines). Salesian Mission Australia will work with its partners to ensure that training is provided in child protection issues.

Where child abuse is reasonably suspected, and the victim and /or the suspected perpetrator are associated with an ASMOAF funded project, ASMOAF and its partners will act in the best interests of the child.

ASMOAF requires all instances of child abuse or suspected breaches to the Code of Conduct to be reported to the appropriate authority and documented in accordance with Appendix A of the Child Safeguarding Guidelines.

Salesian Mission Australia will responsibly and reasonably co-operate with government law enforcement and child protection agencies.

Salesian Mission Australia will regularly review its Child Safeguarding Guidelines and Code of Conduct for implementing these Child Safeguarding Policies. The Director Salesian Missions is responsible for assessing implementation of this policy annually.

The policy will be subject to thorough review every five (5) years.

Date of Change	Change Description	Authorised
10 th February 2011	Original Publication	ASMOAF Director – Br. M Lynch
31 st January 2015	Revised Publication	ASMOAF Director – Br. M Lynch
17 th Nov 2017	Revised Publication, updated to reflect ACFID Code and introduced Guidelines	ASMOAF Director – Br. M Lynch
19 th May 2020	Revised Publication, rename and to reflect ACFID's Code of Conduct	ASMOAF Director – Br. M Lynch



Simple Do's and Don'ts

THERE ARE SOME SIMPLE RULES AND PROCEDURES THAT WILL MINIMISE THE RISK OF AN INCIDENT OCCURRING OR BEING ALLEGED.

MOST ARE COMMON SENSE AND WILL ALREADY BE FOLLOWED, HOWEVER IT IS IMPORTANT THAT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS SPECIFICALLY CHECK THAT THEY ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED IN ANY EVENT WHICH INVOLVES CHILDREN OR YOUNG PEOPLE.

Do's

- Treat everyone with respect, recognising their right to personal privacy.
- Be aware of situations that may present risks and manage these risks.
- Plan and organise any events involving children so that risks are minimised.
- Recognise that caution is required in all one-on-one situations.
- Provide access for children and young people to talk to others about any concerns they have.
- Encourage young people and adults to feel comfortable enough to point out attitudes and behaviour they do not like.
- Remember that someone else may misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned.

Don'ts

- Do not spend time alone with children – plan activities so that more than one person is present or, at least, other people are within sight and hearing.
- Do not take children alone in a car, even for short journeys, unless this is unavoidable for safety reasons. If this is unavoidable, make sure an adult caretaker or another member of staff is aware it is happening.
- Avoid inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others.
- Avoid being drawn into inappropriate attention-seeking behaviour, such as tantrums or crushes.
- Avoid showing favouritism to any individual.
- Never make suggestive remarks or gestures, even in fun.
- Do not trivialise or exaggerate child abuse issues.
- Do not rely on just your good name to protect you.
- Do not believe “It could never happen to me”.