



# Mercy Ministry Companions

## Policy S1 - Safeguarding

### **Commitment**

As a Catholic Church authority, Mercy Ministry Companions recognises the inherent dignity and rights of all people and the Gospel imperative to protect and nurture those most at risk.

### **Policy Statement**

Mercy Ministry Companions adopts a zero-tolerance approach to abuse in all its forms, by ensuring that both it and the Ministries for which it has responsibility have protective practices, policies, guidelines and procedures consistent with the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards Edition Two 2022 and all legislative and statutory safeguarding requirements, including reporting obligations.

Consequences of breaching these policies may include education, counselling, warnings, suspension, restrictions, termination and official reports to police and other statutory agencies, as required.

Mercy Ministry Companions appoints the board of each ministry as its agent in ensuring that appropriate safeguarding policies and practices are developed, implemented and reviewed in each ministry. Mercy Ministry Companions undertakes regular dialogue with its Ministries about their safeguarding policies and practices to ensure an ongoing culture of safety and respect for all.

### **Scope**

This commitment is applicable to the Trustee Directors, staff, contractors and volunteers of Mercy Ministry Companions, Mercy Ministry Companions Ltd and McAuley Property Ltd.

### **Accountability**

The Mercy Ministry Companions Trustee Directors ensure appropriate safeguarding policies, processes and practices are in place. All staff and volunteers comply with this policy and related procedures.

Ministry Boards are required to maintain and continuously improve rigorous safeguarding systems of their own and to support monitoring processes established by Mercy Ministry Companions.

### **Dates**

This commitment takes effect from March 2024 and will be reviewed no later than 31 March 2026.

### **Related Policies and Procedures**

S1A – Safeguarding Procedures

S2 – Safeguarding Commitment Statement

S3 – Code of Conduct

S4 – Safeguarding Complaints Management Policy

G3A – Complaints Handling Procedure