

## Our Commitment to Safeguarding

We're committed to safeguarding every individual that interacts with our services including children, young people and adults of all ages.

Safeguarding is the process of protecting people at every stage of life from the risk of abuse, exploitation and neglect.

As an institution of the Uniting Church, the mission of Uniting WA is to care for the safety and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. We do this by reaching out to people in need, speaking out for fairness and justice, and delivering services with compassion and kindness. We are guided by our shared values to treat each individual equally with respect, compassion and dignity, aligned with fundamental principles of human rights.

We believe that all people have an equal right to protection from abuse, exploitation and neglect. Uniting WA commits to:

- Listening and responding promptly to all safeguarding concerns, allegations or incidents involving abuse, exploitation or neglect.
- Treating all safeguarding concerns, allegations and incidents seriously and with respect for privacy and confidentiality.
- Promoting awareness and understanding of safeguarding among our people (including employees, volunteers and contractors).
- Seeking the voice of individuals in decisions about their safety and wellbeing to help shape outcomes.
- Undertaking safe recruitment and screening practices to ensure suitable people are recruited to work for Uniting WA.
- Providing a culturally safe environment where people feel supported to speak up and have their voices heard.
- Reporting concerns, allegations and incidents involving abuse, exploitation or neglect to authorities in accordance with all legal obligations.
- Taking decisive action to investigate and address safeguarding issues in a traumainformed manner.
- Embedding safeguarding in our practices across Uniting WA.

We will continuously review and improve safeguarding practices to adapt to new challenges and uphold the highest standards of protection and care for all.

Erica Haddon

**Board Chairperson** 

**Co-Chief Executive Officer** 

Michael Chester

**Co-Chief Executive Officer** 

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