

Most Rev Anthony Randazzo

Safeguarding Vision

All children, young people, adults and the vulnerable must be valued and respected within our communities and have the inalienable right to live free from harm. Upholding and protecting the dignity of all who have been made in the image of God is foundational to our faith, and not simply a matter of civil compliance. While as Bishop

It is my vision we have a partnership of protection.

The safety and well-being of all people in the community of the Church and beyond is part of who we are as disciples of Jesus. Likewise, the conviction that all people in the community must be respected and cared for, will inform and direct what we do, as we live out our Christian vocation.

It is the Spirit of God who allows us to know our true identity in Christ and calls us to grow in greater likeness with Him. The Spirit is gifted to us in various ways so that we might live fully with the dignity that is ours in God, and be led in the way of Jesus, which is given particular expression in the Beatitudes. As disciples of the Risen Lord, we commit ourselves to giving witness to the life of Jesus Christ in our world today recognising the face of Christ in the most vulnerable.

There are so many accounts of Jesus in the gospels where he demonstrates his care for children and vulnerable people. It is from His example, we draw our core values: respect; care; and protection of others. They are always Christ centred, and people oriented. As a community of the faithful, an essential element of our vocation requires that we must be vigilant in living these values, and that we have robust, external processes to assist us in our mission to proclaim and live the Good News of Jesus Christ and to ensure the safety and well-being of all.

Today there is legislation, policy, systems, and support from qualified staff within our Diocese to provide direction and guidance to all persons engaged in work with children and vulnerable people. These are in place to strengthen our commitment and continually revise our practices. We are blessed to have a dedicated team whose mission is to assist us by our ongoing formation and education regarding the safety of our children, young people, and vulnerable adults.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Office includes three different teams: for Chancery; Catholic Schools Broken Bay; and CatholicCare Broken Bay, which are under the strategic direction of the Diocesan Safeguarding Director. The work of our Safeguarding teams allows me to have oversight of child-related activities in our parishes, schools, and social services agency. It allows transparency and accountability, and it is supported by external processes in collaboration with the Office of the Children's Guardian.

The work of CatholicCare, as the merciful arm of the Church, and the many staff, volunteers and foster carers who commit to their work, make a valuable contribution to the lives of people in need throughout our Diocese.

In Catholic Schools Broken Bay, our team provide authentic professional Catholic education with care and compassion. They