DOMINICAN EDUCATION AUSTRALIA LTD (DEA)
STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

All children and young people have a right to feel safe and be safe.

DEA is committed to always ensuring that our schools act in the best interests of children and young people.

DEA has a zero tolerance of child abuse and require our schools to deal with allegations and safety concerns immediately consistent with their safeguarding policies and procedures.

DEA is committed to embedding a culture in all our schools where the safety, wellbeing, and participation of all children and young people under their care is paramount. Particular attention is given to the needs of vulnerable children and young people, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, children and young people with disability and mental health issues, children and young people from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, children and young people who are unable to live at home, and those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex.

DEA and its schools and its staff, contractors and volunteers have legal and moral obligations to respond swiftly to child abuse allegations, including contacting authorities where relevant when concerned about a child's safety. These are processes our schools follow rigorously.

DEA and its schools demonstrate commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people by:

- taking into consideration the views of children and young people about decisions that affect their safety and wellbeing;
- empowering children and young people by taking their views seriously, and addressing any concerns they may have;
- acknowledging the cultural diversity of families, and being sensitive to how this may impact on child safety;
- taking proactive steps to prevent child abuse, and identifying risks early so that such risks may be removed or reduced;
- involving families, carers and relevant communities in decision making processes that support the development of a child safe culture;
- continuously reviewing and improving our systems and practices to protect children and young people from abuse;
- providing children and young people with the knowledge and skills to understand and maintain their own personal safety;
- ensuring that DEA and its schools have in place strategies to embed and enhance a culture of child safety and wellbeing through the leadership, governance and culture of the organisation;
- applying robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff, contractors and volunteers;
- providing regular training and education on recognising the nature and indicators of child abuse and other harm, responding to safeguarding risks and how to build culturally safe environments for children and young people;
- implementing specific policies, procedures, training and a Code of Conduct and a set of Child Safeguarding Standards to support the achievement of a child safe culture;
- listening to concerns about the safety of children, and suggestions to improve the child safety processes in place;
- responding swiftly to any child safety concerns and implementing clear procedures for managing and reporting child safety concerns;
- ensuring that every person involved in DEA and its schools understands the important and specific role they play individually and collectively to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and every decision they make; and
- recognising and acknowledging the unique needs of victims and survivors of child abuse, both historical and current, by providing them with genuine care and pastoral support.

For more information or to raise a concern, please contact Safeguarding Coordinator, Dominican Education Australia at admin@dominican.edu.au

Document History

TITLE: Child Safeguarding Commitment Statement			
Date	**Created/Updated**	**By Whom/Approval**	**Version No.**
September 2019	Original	Board of Directors	1.0
14 August 2020	Updated	Board of Directors	2.0
November 2022	Review Name Change only	Board of Directors	2.0
July 2025	Review – no amendments	Board of Directors	3.0
Review: July 2027			