



13<sup>th</sup> of March, 2020

## **Statement on the Safety, Protection and Well-Being of all Children**

*The Faith Communities Council of Victoria has issued the following statement on the safety, protection and well-being of all children:*

As faith community leaders we are united in our commitment to the well-being of all children and urge people of faith to join us in making their safety and protection the highest priority.

Child abuse is unacceptable and violates the basic tenets of each of our religions, which are based on love, compassion and non-violence.

We recognise the crucial role religious communities can play in the lives of many children and acknowledge that our organisations need to establish practices and behaviours to deter and prevent child abuse.

We therefore request all religious institutions to:

- (a) implement the [Child Safe Standards](#), [Reportable Conduct Scheme](#), and [Mandatory Reporting](#) as legislated by State Government.
- (b) respond appropriately to any allegations of child abuse or other child-related misconduct.

As people of faith we have a moral obligation to protect children and to provide them with a safe and nurturing environment so they may reach their full potential.

*Faith Communities Council of Victoria is comprised of the following peak bodies: Baha'i Community of Victoria, Brahma Kumaris Australia, Buddhist Council of Victoria, Hindu Community Council of Victoria, Islamic Council of Victoria, Jain Council of Victoria, Jewish Community Council of Victoria, Sikh Interfaith Council of Victoria and Victorian Council of Churches.*

*Promoting a Harmonious Multifaith Victoria*

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