



## Statement of Commitment

Reach Youth Ministries Inc. (Reach) is dedicated to the safety of young people and children, and, committed to the creation of safe and respectful environments where all people can feel accepted and loved for who they are.

At Reach we aim to create life-giving environments for our young people, through:

- Authentic safe relationships,
- personal reflections, and
- community projects.

Through Reach, young people go on a journey of growth that allows them to take responsibility for themselves, attend to their spiritual needs and be a force for good in the world. Reach is about inspiring ordinary youth to be extraordinary in loving others, caring for the poor in our midst, and making a difference in the world. Through their engagement with Reach we hope that the young people find meaning and God's purpose for their lives and grow to be confident and generous citizens willing to take on responsibility and challenges in the future. Reach is about reaching in to the Spirit within us, reaching out to each other and reaching out to the community.

Reach is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people and strive to provide a safe and supportive environment for children and young people by implementing measures to ensure it. Including:

- Recruitment, selection and training policies for volunteers, members and staff
- Consultation processes with all stakeholders to ensure above standard review processes and whole organisation communication and awareness
- Policies and procedures for handling disclosures of suspicions of harm including reporting guidelines
- Risk management plans for high-risk activities and special events
- A plan for managing breaches of the risk management strategy
- Policies and procedures for managing compliance with the blue card system

The following values reflect the culture that we are committed to promoting within our organisation:

### Values

- To put Jesus first in both our ministry and personal lives
- To have personal and corporate integrity in everything we do
- To support and champion young people, especially those with whom we are regularly in contact
- Our families, friends, and church community are high priorities
- To work towards unity as Christ desired for his Church (John 17:21)
- To serve others as Jesus taught us (John 13:15-20)
- To be good and faithful stewards of all that we have been given - our own gifts, resources, finances, people, etc (Matt 25:14-30)
- To have a lifestyle of daily personal prayer and regular corporate prayer

*"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with little will also be dishonest with much. So, if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?" (Luke 16:10-12)*

## Giving a voice to young people

Reach focusses on the wellbeing and championing of young people. As such, collaborative approaches to youth engagement are employed to ensure their voices are heard in the shaping and direction of Reach.

- Young people involved in Reach are invited to review Reach practices establishing mutual understandings and definition of the concepts of:
  - Respect
  - Inform
  - Give you a voice
  - Help
  - Trust
  - Safety

These inform our statement of commitment and is used to inform staff training, and ongoing evaluations.

- All new young people joining Reach youth group will be provided with our statement of commitment. Additionally, parents will also be provided with this statement and all relevant policy, and friendly mechanisms for feedback provided
- Feedback from young people, parents, and other stakeholders will be sought within all Reach activities and reviewed by the leadership team and submitted to the Management Committee

## Contact Officer

The contact officer who can deal with child protection issues and act as a point of contact if someone wishes to raise concerns is: **Priscilla O'Brien**, Director, Reach Youth Ministries : **Ph. 0429 475 825**

## Reporting a Disclosure or Suspicion of Harm

### Making a Report

If any individual working with Reach Youth Ministries needs to make a report to the Queensland Police Service or Child Safety Services, this can be done as follows:

- A Regional Intake Service during business hours (from **9am to 5pm Monday to Friday**)
- **Far North Queensland - Phone: 1300 684 062**
- **Outside of these hours**, you can contact the Child Safety After Hours Service Centre on phone **freecall 1800 177 135** (Queensland only)