



CATHOLIC EDUCATION OFFICE DIOCESE OF TOOWOOMBA

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Foreword

From the Director of the Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Toowoomba

One of the most important concerns of any community should be the health, safety and well being of its children and young people. Children and young people should grow up free of violence and exploitation. They should be able to develop spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially in conditions of freedom and dignity.

The Catholic Church has affirmed that:

“The Catholic School sets out to be a school for the human person and of human persons. ‘The person of each individual human being, in his or her material and spiritual needs, is at the heart of Christ’s teaching: that is why the promotion of the human person is the goal of the Catholic school’.”

‘The Catholic School on the Threshold of the New Millennium’, N 11

This document highlights the commitment of Catholic educators to the protection of children and young people and upholding of their right to a safe and secure environment. Those in positions of responsibility acknowledge their responsibility to have in place proactive and interventionary policies and procedures which will:

- o Provide students with a safe school environment;
- o Ensure that school personnel have the knowledge and skills they need to promote such a safe environment; and
- o Provide a prompt and supportive response to an allegation of harm of any kind.

The Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Toowoomba and schools within its jurisdiction intend to comply fully with all the relevant legislative requirements current within the State of Queensland. This Authority also intends to comply fully with the commitment to the Principles and Procedures of “Towards Healing” (December 2000) that deals with responding to complaints of abuse against personnel of the Catholic Church of Australia; and our commitment to ensuring high Principles and Standards for those who are involved in the Church’s Ministry of Education.

The Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Toowoomba, is one of the many Church agencies which strive to promote the message of Jesus Christ in a very real way. The protection of young students is fundamental to this message.

I commend the use of this manual to all schools within the Diocese of Toowoomba and thank all those responsible for the compilation of this Manual.

John Borserio

John Borserio
 Director
 April 2006