

# COMMITMENT TO CHILD SAFETY

## St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne

### Commitment to Child Safety Statement

St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people. This is a primary focus in our delivery of healthcare.

St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne has zero tolerance for any form of child abuse including, physical violence, sexual offences, emotional or psychological abuse or neglect.

St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne is committing to providing a child safe environment where children and young people are safe and feel safe, and their voices are heard about decisions that affect their lives. Particular attention is paid to the cultural safety of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as the safety of children and young people with a disability.

Every person involved in St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne has a responsibility to understand the important and specific role he/she plays individually and collectively to ensure that the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people is at the forefront of all they do and the delivery of healthcare.

In our planning, decision-making and operations St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne will:

- Promote a safe environment through the early identification and response to risk of child abuse in physical and online environments
- Respect children and young people's needs and issues, such as developmental and educational needs, privacy and assisting children and young people to become active participants in their care: allowing them to participate in decision-making and, as appropriate to their capacity, to make decisions about their care.
- Focus on work environment, work culture and satisfaction of staff as an integral strategy for improving consumer-focused care and ensuring children's and young people's safety.
- Respect diversity in cultures and child rearing practices while keeping child safety paramount.
- Provide written guidance on appropriate conduct and behaviour towards children.
- Engage only the most suitable people to work with children and have a high quality staff and volunteer supervision and professional development.
- Ensure children/young people know who to talk with if they are worried or are feeling unsafe, and that they are comfortable and encouraged to raise such issues.

