



## **Edmund Rice Education Australia Commitment Statement to Child Safety**

All children have a right to feel safe, and be safe.

Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) is committed to creating an environment where the safety, wellbeing, and participation of all children and young people is paramount. Additional focus is given to vulnerable children, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, as well as children with a disability.

We have zero tolerance of child abuse and all allegations and safety concerns are treated very seriously and consistent with our robust policies and procedures. EREA and its schools have legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's safety, which we follow rigorously.

Edmund Rice Education Australia 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 lives;
- 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;
- continuously reviewing and improving our systems and practices to protect children and young people from abuse; and
- providing children and young people with the knowledge and skills to understand and maintain their own personal safety.

Edmund Rice Education Australia and its schools demonstrate respect and support for all staff, contractors, and volunteers by:

- applying robust human resources and recruitment practices for all staff, contractors and volunteers;
- providing regular training and education on child abuse risks;
- implementing specific policies, procedures, training and a National Code of Conduct to support the achievement of child safety;
- listening to concerns about the safety of children, and suggestions to improve the child safety processes in place; and
- ensuring that every person involved in Edmund Rice Education Australia and its schools understands the important and specific role they play 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 every decision they make.