

## **- MEDIA RELEASE -**

### **Safeguarding a clear priority: Sisters of Mercy Brisbane achieves full implementation of National Catholic Safeguarding Standards**

**30 April 2025**

A safeguarding audit report has found solid safeguarding practices are in place for religious congregation the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane.

The audit, conducted by Australian Catholic Safeguarding Ltd (ACSL) in January and February this year found that 100 per cent of the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (NCSS) for children and adults at risk are either at an embedded or substantially progressed stage.

While the Congregation numbers 87 sisters, the majority of sisters have retired, with only eight sisters in active ministry.

ACSL CEO Dr Ursula Stephens said that despite the reduced engagement in ministry as the Congregation ages, the Congregation has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to embedding a positive safeguarding culture.

‘Our audit of the Sisters has taken into consideration that there are relatively few members still engaged in ministry and that those who are have ministry agreements in place with the service providers they are working with,’ Dr Stephens said.

‘Our focus was on a core set of standards that demonstrate an entity’s leadership in safeguarding, human resource practices, approach to complaint management, ongoing training and education and of course, risk management in the physical and online environments’.

‘Our desktop review of the Congregation’s safeguarding policies and procedures coupled with interviews with personnel identified that the Sisters are proactive in managing risks that might emerge in their environment.’

‘The Congregation has appropriate complaint management processes and systems in place and is also investing in its members by ensuring Sisters in ministry are participating in appropriate supervision that includes a focus on safeguarding.’

‘One suggestion we have made for improvement is to enhance the visibility and accessibility of the Congregation’s Safeguarding Statement by publishing it on the website’s homepage.’

‘While simple, this small change can ensure that anyone seeking information about the Congregation’s approach to safeguarding will find it right away. Putting safeguarding on the front page means that there can be no mistake about the Congregation’s determination to help anyone in its reach know that they have the right to be safe,’ Dr Stephens said.

Sr Peta Goldberg RSM, the Congregation Leader for the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane said:

‘The Sisters of Mercy Brisbane Congregation is committed to the ethical standards incorporated in its Code of Conduct. In reporting to the Leadership Team on the safeguarding audit conducted on 27 February, Dr. David Treanor congratulated the Sisters on the Congregation’s thorough compliance with ACSL’s requirements in its documentation and practice.’

The full audit report for the Sisters of Mercy Brisbane is available on ACSL’s [website](#).