

SGS Code of Practice

But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. Go and do likewise.

Luke 10:32-34, 37

Purpose

Good Samaritans continue to be inspired by the simple yet powerful parable of the Good Samaritan. It is an invitation to travel that same road with eyes of compassion. Through the inspiration of Archbishop John Bede Polding, Sisters, Oblates and all those involved in Good Samaritan ministry commit themselves to live in right relationship with all people and all creation.

This Code of Practice reflects the values of the Gospel, the Rule of St Benedict, Catholic Social Teaching and our Statement of Directions.

As Good Samaritans we are committed to the Principles and Standards in the National Catholic Safeguarding Standards (Australia) and 'Integrity in Ministry' and to relevant laws of Australia, Japan, Kiribati and Philippines.

Therefore we are committed to being good neighbours wherever we live, work or minister. We commit to creating safe environments for all especially children and vulnerable people. We show a particular concern for indigenous children, and those with disability or gender diversity, living in poverty or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

We strive for integrity, transparency, accountability and competence in the performance of our work and ministry.

We cherish the whole of creation. We promote sustainability of the planet and wise stewardship of our resources.

We commit to this Code of Practice. We recognise the unique circumstances and responsibilities of Good Samaritans as Sisters (including those exercising leadership), Oblates, employees and volunteers.

We take seriously our commitment to and responsibility for positive attitudes and behaviours.

We value our cultural diversity and acknowledge that this Code of Practice will be understood and implemented in communities that are living and ministering interculturally. However our cultural practices are expressed, our shared understanding of the Gospel and our Good Samaritan spirit underpin our common life.

Your way of acting should be different from the world's way; the love of Christ must come before all else. RB 4:20-21

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GOOD NEIGHBOURS - Good Samaritans have a responsibility to:

- Show compassionate neighbourly concern for each other and all other persons in listening, speaking and action
- Respond to everyone, irrespective of differences, in an inclusive, mutual, courteous and non-judgemental manner
- Make hospitality to all a priority
- Endeavour to restore right relationships whenever there is a breakdown
- Ask others how they would like to be treated, especially those from other cultures

Behaviour is unacceptable if Good Samaritans:

- » Intentionally ostracise, isolate or exclude another person or group
- » Harass, bully or coerce another person or group – verbally or physically
- » Intimidate others through outbursts of anger, passive aggression, or put downs
- » Engage in exclusive relationships which may create dependencies
- » Use language which belittles or embarrasses others
- » Exercise power in a patronising or authoritarian way

SAFE ENVIRONMENTS FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS AT RISK - Good Samaritans have a responsibility to:

- Build a culture of safeguarding for all
- Ensure that all our spaces are welcoming, safe and supportive, especially for children and adults at risk
- Listen in a non-judgemental way to the story of one who speaks of hardship, abuse or neglect
- Maintain an understanding of the relevant legislation in relation to child protection
- Maintain an up-to-date Working with Children Clearance as appropriate
- Display the Good Samaritans' statement of commitment to safeguarding children and adults at risk as appropriate
- Make the Good Samaritan complaints' procedure accessible to all
- Ensure adherence to the policy for the taking and use of photos and images
- Take action when any person, especially a child or adult at risk is uncomfortable due to the language or actions of another person, or the environment

Behaviour is unacceptable if Good Samaritans:

- » Show that others' opinions or practices in relation to religion, politics, sexuality or culture are not valued
- » Are over-familiar or use inappropriate humour or language which makes another feel shy or embarrassed
- » Fail to comply with relevant legislation especially in relation to child protection
- » Use corporal punishment

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INTEGRITY AND COMPETENCE - Good Samaritans have a responsibility to:

- Act with integrity, confidentiality, accountability and transparency
- Ensure clear and specific role descriptions for all work and ministry roles
- Commit to ongoing professional development and training, review and supervision as appropriate
- Periodically read and reflect on the Code of Practice
- Maintain appropriate record

Behaviour is unacceptable if Good Samaritans:

- » Fail to participate in relevant education, professional development or training
- » Engage in tasks or activities with inadequate training or qualifications
- » Participate in gossip or break confidentiality
- » Ignore professional and personal boundaries
- » Deal with others inconsistently when dealing with grievances
- » Show inappropriate favouritism
- » Use information technology or social media inappropriately
- » Intrude in to the private space, property, mail or email of another

STEWARDSHIP - Good Samaritans have a responsibility to:

- Respect the whole of creation and nurture ecological conversion
- Promote sustainability and the reduction of consumerism
- Be open and transparent in the use of financial resources
- Use equipment and spaces appropriately and responsibly
- Declare gifts received according to policy

Behaviour is unacceptable if Good Samaritans:

- » Steal or use congregational resources dishonestly
- » Receive personal payment or inappropriate gifts for services
- » Fail to properly maintain buildings and equipment
- » Waste energy, water and other resources



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