

Whistleblower Policy Statement

Whistleblower protections at Churches of Christ

At Churches of Christ, we are committed to maintaining a safe, ethical, and transparent environment across all our services. We encourage anyone, whether a resident, family member, staff member, volunteer, or contractor, to speak up if they witness or suspect serious misconduct or wrongdoing.

Under the Aged Care Act 2024 and the Corporations Act 2001, individuals who have reasonable grounds to suspect a wrongdoing have protections from the whistleblower provisions in this legislation when reporting it.

We have a Whistleblower Protection and Disclosure Policy that outlines how reports are managed, who can receive them and the safeguards in place to protect whistleblowers.

This policy is available via our external reporting service STOPLINE. Where disclosures are made in accordance with the policy, the necessary protections set out in the policy, including confidentiality anonymity and safeguarding against detriment, will apply.

Matters which can be reported:

Disclosure is encouraged where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that Churches of Christ has engaged in misconduct or wrongdoing in the organisation.

Under the Corporations Act:

- **Misconduct or an improper state of affairs** – including in relation to the Organisations tax affairs.
- **Contraventions of Commonwealth laws** – Corporations Act 2001, Australian Securities, and Investments Commission Act 2001
- **Financial malpractice or fraud** – money laundering, misappropriation of funds, corruption, offering or accepting bribes.
- **Illegal activity** – theft, illicit drug use, modern slavery, violence, or criminal damage to property
- **Conduct involving significant risk or danger** – to the public or organisation employees.
- **Improper or unethical behaviours** – that may cause serious financial or non-financial loss to the organisation.

Under the Aged Care Act:

- Contraventions of the Aged Care Act include any conduct that may breach the rights and safety of individuals receiving funded aged care services.
- A whistleblower may also choose to have a disclosure managed as a complaint or feedback under the Aged Care Act. However, this election means additional protections from section 548 of The Aged Care Act (civil, criminal, or administrative liability) will not apply.

Complaints and Feedback:

It is important to note that the whistleblower process does not replace our complaints and feedback process. If you do not require whistleblower protections, you are encouraged to raise your concerns through our complaints system, which remains a safe and confidential avenue for reporting issues and seeking resolution.

This can be found on our webpage :[Feedback and Complaints | Contact Us | Churches of Christ](#)

Alternatively, you can request a Complaints, Suggestions and Feedback form from the service, refer your concerns to staff or talk with the Service Manager.

To make a confidential or anonymous whistleblower report, we encourage you to use our independent reporting service, STOPLINE.

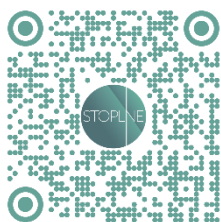
STOPLINE

ONLINE: <https://cofc.stoplinereport.com>

PHONE: 1300 30 45 50

Email: makeareport@stopline.com.au

POST: Attention: Churches of Christ in Queensland, c/o Stopline, PO Box 403, Diamond Creek, VIC 3089, Australia



Make a report via your smartphone.