



# Eastwood Community Baptist Church Whistleblower Policy

## INTRODUCTION

Eastwood Community Baptist Church is committed to operating legally (in accordance with applicable legislation and regulation), properly (in accordance with the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT policy and procedures), and ethically (in accordance with recognised ethical principles). Employees and volunteers of Eastwood Community Baptist Church are expected to cooperate in maintaining legal, proper, and ethical operations if necessary, by reporting non-compliant actions by other people. Correspondingly, employees who do assist in maintaining legal, proper, and ethical operations should not be penalised in any way.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- a) encourage the reporting of matters that may cause harm to individuals or financial or non-financial loss to Eastwood Community Baptist Church or damage to its reputation;
- b) enable Eastwood Community Baptist Church to deal with reports from whistleblowers in a way that will protect the identity of the whistleblower as far as possible and provide for the secure storage of the information provided;
- c) establish policies for protecting whistleblowers against reprisal by any person internal or external to the entity;
- d) provide for the appropriate infrastructure;
- e) help to ensure Eastwood Community Baptist Church maintains the highest standards of ethical behaviour and integrity.

# **POLICY**

## **Concerns regarding illegal or corrupt behaviour**

Where an employee or volunteer of Eastwood Community Baptist Church believes in good faith and on reasonable grounds that any other employee, volunteer, or contractor has breached any provision of the general law, that employee must report their concern to their ministry leader: or, if they feel that their ministry leader may be complicit in the breach report to,

- a) The Church Senior Pastor; or, if they feel that the Church Senior Pastor may be complicit in the breach,
- b) The Church's nominated Whistleblower Protection Officer (WPO) as appointed by the Church Diaconate; or, if they feel this to be necessary,
- c) A person or office independent of the organisation nominated by the organisation to receive such information, the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT.
- d) The duly constituted authorities responsible for the enforcement of the law in the relevant area.

The person making their concern known shall not suffer any sanctions from the organisation on account of their actions in this regard provided that their actions

- Are in good faith, and
- Are based on reasonable grounds, and
- Conform to the designated procedures.

Any person within the organisation to whom such a disclosure is made shall

- If they believe the behaviour complained of to be unquestionably trivial or fanciful, dismiss the allegation and notify the person making the allegation of their decision;
- If they believe the behaviour complained of to be neither trivial nor fanciful, ensure that the allegation is investigated, a finding is made, and the person making the allegation is informed of the finding.

Any such investigation shall observe the rules of natural justice and the provisions of procedural fairness.

Disclosures may be made anonymously, and this anonymity shall as far as possible be preserved by the organisation.

## **Concerns regarding improper or unethical behaviour**

Where an employee or volunteer of Eastwood Community Baptist Church believes in good faith on reasonable grounds that any other employee, volunteer, or contractor has breached any provision of the organisation's constitution, or its bylaws, or its policies, or its code of conduct, or generally recognised principles of ethics, that employee may report their concern to

- Their supervisor: or, if they feel that their supervisor may be complicit in the breach,
- The Church Senior Pastor: or, if they feel that the Church Senior Pastor may be complicit in the breach,
- A person or office independent of the organisation nominated by the organisation to receive such information, the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT.

The person making their concern known shall not suffer any sanctions from the organisation on account of their actions in this regard provided that their actions

- Are in good faith, and
- Are based on reasonable grounds, and

- Conform to the designated procedures.

Any person within the organisation to whom such a disclosure is made shall

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