Student Welfare

Child Protection Policy & Mandatory Reporting

Policy
Everyone working in a college is responsible for the care and protection of the children and reporting information about child maltreatment concerns such as neglect or physical, sexual and emotional maltreatment. The college will act in the best interests of the child. Teachers and principals are mandated by law under section 184 of the Children Youth and Families Act 2005 (CYFA) to make a report to child protection.

Guidelines – Indicators of Harm
A child protection concern may arise from any action or inaction which is inconsistent with the care and protection of a child. This may include physical, emotional or sexual abuse or neglect of a child. It may involve repeated or persistent maltreatment, or it may arise from a single incident. It may be observed evidence of risk or indicators, reports of maltreatment by a person without parental responsibility for the child and/or a disclosure of information provided directly by a child or parent/carer that describes or alleges maltreatment.

Maltreatment refers to when a child or young person has been subjected to physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse and/or neglect, the severity and/or persistence of which has resulted in or is likely to result in significant harm. It is possible for a child to be maltreated by a parent/carer, another adult person or another child who may or may not be older.

Procedure – Staff Training
1. The Principal or their delegate will organise for new staff to complete the course “Child Protection – Induction & Essential Child Protection” by In Safe Hands.
2. In the event that existing staff members do not have training, the training is to be completed during staff inservice prior to the beginning of the school year.

Procedure – Mandatory Reporting
1. Everyone working in a college needs to be able to recognise the risk factors and indicators of child abuse or maltreatment.
2. The role of college staff is not investigative.
3. If a member of staff has concerns that relate to a child in need of immediate protection or you have formed a belief that a child is at significant risk of harm – contact Department of Human Services.
4. If a member of staff has general concerns that do not meet the criteria of immediate protection or a belief that a child is at significant risk of harm - contact Child FIRST.

Procedure – Information Required for Mandatory Reporting
1. The following information is to be compiled by the staff member before submitting the report to Department of Human Services:
   a. name of family and children
   b. addresses, language spoken and student’s date of birth
   c. factual and specific reason for concern
   d. the reporter’s involvement with the family
   e. any other people or agencies involved
   f. concerns about a child protection workers safety in visiting the family
   g. best time to find the parents/guardians at home
   h. if the family knows the report is being made.

Version & Review
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