



S^tPATRICK'S
Technical College

SACE ■ TRAINING ■ APPRENTICESHIPS

Policies & Procedures 5.8

Child Protection

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INTRODUCTION

St Patrick's Technical College Child Protection Policy is underpinned by our belief in:

- The uniqueness and dignity of each individual
- Safety as a basic human right and as a prerequisite for our mission
- The protection from all forms of abuse as a fundamental right of those who are the least powerful in our College community
- The necessity to institutionalise practices, procedures and programs to ensure student/apprentice safety

Our obligation as a College and training organisation is to meet legal requirements, protect students, intervene on their behalf and work to empower them.

POLICY

The role of St Patrick's Technical College is significant in the prevention of child abuse. We recognise that we are legally mandated, and therefore obliged, to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect.

The College takes responsibility for implementing child protection practices and ensuring St Patrick's Technical College staff are educated in the area of child protection and trained in mandatory notification.

The College meets these requirements through the:

- Provision of child protection policy, practices, procedures and programs
- Induction of all those involved in the education and training of our students, including new staff.
- Provision of appropriate learning programs.
- On-going review of policy, practices, procedures and programs.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

- The dignity of the human person is fundamental to our values and ethos
- Young people have the right to be safe and feel safe.
- Development is dependent on the quality of care provided by the significant adults in young people's lives.
- The family is recognised as being primarily responsible for the care and protection of the children.
- Where families are not providing the care consistent with their obligations or where a student's welfare is at risk, or suspected to be at risk, intervention on behalf of the child is obligatory.
- St Patrick's Technical College must be a place where students/trainees feel safe.
- The prevention and treatment of child abuse requires a multi-disciplinary response which is sensitive to both cultural diversity and special needs.
- Cultural or other reasons notwithstanding, College personnel/trainers/employers must intervene on behalf of children.



- Cooperation with Government Departments and human service organisations in the community is essential in child protection.
- People who are involved in situations where abuse occurs, or is suspected, are treated with sensitivity, dignity and respect.

Responsibilities of St Patrick's Technical College are to:

- Provide a safe education and training environment which ensures that young people are protected.
- Ensure staff understand the definitions of child abuse and neglect and carry out their legal obligations, responsibilities and correct procedures when notifying suspicion of child abuse and neglect.
- Ensure knowledge of and compliance with custody orders and restraining orders.
- Support staff directly involved with the handling of disclosure and notification.
- Ensure in consultation with the College Board, Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), employers and parents that policies and organisational procedures provide students with a safe school environment.
- Ensure that the way staff and students relate is based on mutual respect and consideration.
- Ensure that behavioural practices respect the dignity of students.
- Provide training and development for staff in child protection and abuse prevention curriculum.
- Implement child protection and abuse prevention curriculum and ensure that students have access to these programs.
- Ensure appropriate confidentiality of information concerning students in cases of suspected abuse or neglect.

Responsibilities of Staff / Trainers are to:

- Treat students with dignity and respect, to act with propriety, provide duty of care and protect students in their care.
- Participate in training and development opportunities which provide knowledge and skills in mandatory notification.
- Each member of staff recognises that they are a mandated notifier and are therefore required to report suspected child abuse to the Child Abuse Report Line on 131478.
- Inform the Principal that they have completed a notification to the Child Abuse Report Line.
- Provide a physically and psychologically safe environment for students.
- Teach students skills and understanding which will empower them to achieve and maintain personal safety.
- Assist students to develop positive, responsible and caring attitudes and behaviours which recognise the rights of all people to be safe and free from both harassment and abuse.



GUIDELINES

We seek to develop education, training and care practices which:

- Ensure safe environments for our students/apprentices
- Support students to gain confidence in their identity and develop their capabilities and strengths
- Respect the diverse and special needs of students
- Are sensitive and responsive to changes in behaviour which may be indicative of abuse.

Provide training and development opportunities to:

- Ensure staff/trainers understand their obligations and responsibilities as mandated notifiers and develop appropriate procedures
- Provide the skills, knowledge and understanding of personal safety programs for students and enable them to continually build on this

Develop partnerships between the College, RTOs, Employers, parents and the community which:

- Promote safe environments for our students wherever they are
- Are based on effective communication
- Promote community understanding of personal safety programs
- Acknowledge and provide for diversity e.g. cultural, special needs

Develop mandatory reporting systems which are clear and understood by all staff/trainers so that they:

- Are provided with written information/procedures relevant to their employment/role
- Know about support mechanisms in the College
- Are able to participate in training and development

Provide programs which support students to:

- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding to achieve and maintain personal safety
- Participate in a range of programs which respond to their individual needs and interests
- Develop positive, responsible and caring attitudes and behaviours which recognise the rights of all people to be safe and free from both harassment and abuse

Review policy practices and procedures so that:

- Mandated reporting training of staff complies with legal obligations and recommended frequency
- Mandated reporting records are kept and regularly updated
- Access to child protection curriculum training is provided
- Support mechanisms for College personnel notifying are regularly communicated
- College personnel and training and employer partners are informed of any changes to legislation, policy and procedures.



RELATED POLICIES

- *1.1 - Ethos and Charter*
- *5.1 - Pastoral Care*
- *5.2 - Behaviour Management*
- *5.4 - Duty of Care / Health, Safety and Welfare*
- *5.5 - Anti-harassment and Anti-bullying*
- *5.11 - Student Code of Conduct*