

POLICY NUMBER: SSCPOL003:3**POLICY TITLE: Mandatory Reporting Requirements of Skillset Senior College Limited Staff .**

Supersedes: SSCPOL003:2

Release Date: January 2020

Review Date: January 2021

1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure staff understand current mandatory reporting requirements.

This policy relates to all Skillset Senior College (SSC) staff

2.0 POLICY

All SSC staff are considered Mandatory Reporters under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998.

Under this legislation, mandatory reporting applies to a person who, in the course of his or her professional work or other paid employment delivers health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services, or law enforcement, wholly or partly, to children, and a person who holds a management position in an organisation the duties of which include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services, or law enforcement, wholly or partly, to children.

Staff do not need to be absolutely sure about their suspicions, only that they have 'reasonable grounds' to suspect that a student is at risk of significant harm because of one or more of the following circumstances.

Neglect:

- The students basic physical or psychological needs are not being met e.g. access to adequate food, physical shelter/ safe environment, supervision
- The parents or carers have not arranged for the student to get medical care when they need it, this also includes mental health care needs
- Education has now been placed within this category and directly relates to a parent/carer choosing to neglect the educational needs of the child
- Relinquishing care – where a parent or carer has chosen to relinquish their parental/carer's responsibilities

Abuse – direct or indirect:

- The student has been physically, psychologically or sexually abused
- The student is living in a house where there is domestic violence and as a result they are at risk of serious physical or psychological harm

Parent/Carer Concerns

- The parent or carer is behaving in such a way (e.g. parental substance abuse, mental health needs, domestic violence) that the student may/has suffered serious physical or psychological harm
- The student is an immediate risk of doing serious physical injury to themselves, including suicide.

Reportable conduct of another staff member:

- Any sexual offence or sexual misconduct committed against, with or in the presence of a child (including a child pornography offence), or
- Any assault, ill treatment, or neglect of a child, or
- Any behaviour that causes psychological harm to a child, whether or not, in any case, with the consent of the child

Authorised by: Abbey Barrett

Position: SSC Head of College

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Staff may form this view through listening to the student, observing their behaviour or the behaviour of their parents/carers or fellow staff members.

If a student discloses to any staff member regarding alleged abuse or neglect, staff should follow the Student Disclosure Policy. The online Mandatory Reporter Guide “Keep Them Safe” found here: <http://www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au/> may also assist staff in decision making, however the SSC Head of College or senior staff member (SSC-Deputy Head of College) must be notified in any suspected cases of abuse or neglect.

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