



## QRC Child Protection Policy

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### Introduction

Queenstown Resort College (QRC) is committed to child protection and its responsibilities under the Children's Act 2014 and to ensuring the wellbeing and safety of children, including the prevention of child abuse or maltreatment.

QRC's Child Protection policy provides guidance concerning how to identify and respond to concerns about the wellbeing of a child, including possible abuse or neglect.

- 1.0 The process for responding to a concern about a child is attached as Appendix B.
- 1.1 The interests of the child will be the paramount consideration when any action is taken in response to suspected abuse or neglect. QRC commits to support the statutory agencies (Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki) and the New Zealand Police (the Police) to investigate abuse and will report suspected cases and concerns to these agencies as per the process in this policy.
- 1.2 The QRC Student Services Manager is responsible for carrying out the responsibilities outlined in this policy. Staff will not assume responsibility beyond the level of their experience and training. QRC commits to ensuring staff have access to the information and training they need.
- 1.3 This policy was developed and approved by the Senior Management Team. The Student Services Manager is responsible for the maintenance and three yearly review of this policy. A digital copy can be found on our website at [www.qrc.ac.nz](http://www.qrc.ac.nz)
- 1.4 The policy is due to be updated on 01/08/2023. It is consistent with the Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki) and Police guidelines and will be updated when new guidance is issued.

### 2.0 Purpose, Scope and Principles

Our child protection policy supports our staff to respond appropriately to potential child protection concerns, including suspected abuse or neglect. QRC is committed to protecting children from abuse and to recognise the important roles our staff have in protecting children.

- 2.1 This policy provides a framework and expectations to protect children, including (but not limited to) staff actions in response to actual or suspected child abuse and neglect. It applies to all QRC staff, including part-time and contractors.



- 2.2 In addition to guiding staff to make referrals of suspected child abuse and neglect to the statutory agencies – i.e., Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki) and the Police – this policy will also help our staff identify and respond to the needs of the many vulnerable children whose wellbeing is of concern.
- 2.4 QRC are also committed to exploring opportunities to work with other providers, including from other sectors, to develop a network of child protection practice in our community.

### 3.0 Definition of Child Abuse

The Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1989 defines child abuse as ‘...the harming (whether physically, emotionally, sexually) ill-treatment, abuse, neglect or deprivation of any child or young person’.

- 3.1 **Physical abuse** is any act that may result in physical harm of a child or young person. It can be but is not limited to: bruising, cutting, hitting, beating, biting, burning, causing abrasions, strangulation, suffocation, drowning, poisoning and fabricated or induced illness.
- 3.2 **Emotional abuse** is the persistent emotional ill-treatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effect on the child’s emotional development. This can include a pattern of rejecting, degrading, ignoring, isolating, corrupting, exploiting or terrorising. It may also include age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. It also includes the seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of others.
- 3.3 **Sexual abuse** involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities as well as non-contact acts such as involving children in the looking at or production of sexual images, sexual activities and sexual behaviours.
- 3.4 **Neglect** is the persistent failure to meet a child’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, causing long term serious harm to the child’s health or development. It may also include neglect of a child’s basic or emotional needs.

### 4.0 Roles and Responsibilities of Staff

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of staff to be vigilant, have knowledge and awareness of the indicators of neglect, potential or actual abuse and to report any concerns, suspicions or allegations of suspected abuse immediately and ensure that the concern is taken seriously and reported.



## 5.0 Child Protection Procedures

- 5.1 All concerns of potential suspected or alleged abuse must be reported immediately to the Student Services Manager.
- 5.2 If a child/young person makes any verbal disclosure to a member of staff, it is important that it is reported to the Student Services Manager who will document this in the Students Services Electronic Pastoral Care Logbook. Documentation should include time, date and who was present. This information will be passed onto authorities as soon as possible.
- 5.3 It is the responsibility of the Student Services Manager to advise the Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki) or Police promptly when a disclosure is made.
- 5.4 Deciding when and who will inform the parent(s) and/or caregiver will be determined by Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki) and Police in consultation with the PU Child Protection Advisor.

## 6.0 Training

- 6.1 All staff will receive child protection training at the appropriate level for their role.

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## 7.0 Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- 7.1 QRC will seek advice from the Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki) and/or the Police before identifying information about an allegation is shared with anyone, other than the Student Service Manager or designated person.  
  
Staff should be aware that:
- 7.2 Under sections 15 and 16 of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989 any person who believes that a child has been or is likely to be, harmed physically, emotionally or sexually or ill-treated, abused, neglected or deprived may report the matter to Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki) or the Police and provided the report is made in good faith, no civil, criminal or disciplinary proceedings may be brought against them.
- 7.3 When collecting personal information about individuals, it is important to be aware of the requirements of the privacy principles – i.e., the need to collect the information directly from the individual concerned and when doing so to be transparent about: the purposes for collecting the information and how it will be used; who can see the information; where it is held; what is compulsory/voluntary information; and that people have a right to request access to and correction of their information.
- 7.4 Staff may, however, disclose information under the Privacy Act/Health Information Privacy Code where there is good reason to do so – such as where there is a serious risk to individual health and safety. Disclosure about ill-treatment or neglect of a child/young person may also be made to the Police or Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki) under sections 15 and 16 of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989.

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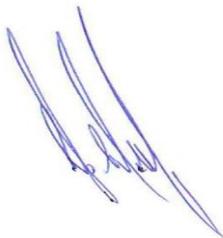
8.0 Child Safe Practice Guidelines

- 8.1 Where there are overnight family trips, groups should always be accompanied by an adult male and female teacher or staff member.
- 8.2 Ensure that use of photographic images and video are aligned to relevant privacy policies.
- 8.3 Any staff member responsible for children and young people at any given time should always remain in an alcohol-free state that they can react appropriately to any situation that might arise.

9.0 Allegations made against members of Staff

- 9.1 Allegations, suspicions or complaints of abuse against staff, contractors or representatives of other agencies must be taken seriously and reported to the PU Child Protection Advisor who will deal with them immediately, sensitively and expediently within the procedures outlined in this Section.
- 9.2 It is not the responsibility of the staff to investigate allegations of child abuse.
- 9.3 If the Police decide to undertake a criminal investigation then the member of staff may be suspended, without prejudice, as a precautionary measure. It is important that no internal investigation is undertaken, and no evidence gathered that might prejudice the criminal investigation.

Ratified by – Chief Executive



Signed:

Date: 3 August 2020

Policy developed by: SMT
Date reviewed and adopted: August 2020
Due date for Policy Review: August 2023
File location: QMS



## APPENDIX A: Definitions

**Child** – means a person who is under the age of 18 years

**Child protection** – activities carried out to ensure that children are safe in cases where there is suspected abuse or neglect or are at risk of abuse or neglect.

**Designated person for child protection** – the manager/supervisor or designated person responsible for providing advice and support to staff where they have a concern about an individual child or who want advice about child protection policy.

**Disclosure** – information given to a staff member by a child, parent or caregiver or a third party in relation to abuse or neglect.

**Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki)** – the agency responsible for investigating and responding to suspected abuse and neglect and for providing care and protection to children found to be in need.

**New Zealand Police** – the agency responsible for responding to situations where a child is in immediate danger and for working with Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki) in child protection work and investigating cases of abuse or neglect where an offence may have occurred.

## APPENDIX B: Steps for reporting suspected or actual child abuse

### CHILD ABUSE IS EITHER SUSPECTED OR DISCLOSED

- Ensure the child or young person is safe from immediate harm.

### LISTEN

- **Listen carefully** to what the child is saying **DO NOT** interview the child or ask too many questions, ask the very basics i.e. Who/when?
- Once you have ascertained the basics **DO NOT** question them further. Document what the child has said, include time, date and who was present so you can pass this information to authorities as soon as possible.
- Report your concern to the PU Child Protection Advisor.

### HOW TO REPORT YOUR CONCERN

- If you ever think a person is in immediate danger, call the Police (**111**).
- Advise **Ministry of Vulnerable Children (Oranga Tamariki)** on 0508 FAMILY (0505 326 459) or **Police** promptly when a disclosure is made.

### POLICE

- The Police have a dedicated team of investigators who focus on Child Protection
- Deciding when and who will inform the parent(s) and/or caregiver will be determined by Oranga Tamariki and Police in consultation with the PU Child Protection Advisor. Report early so there is time to consider what's best for the child.
- Police and Oranga Tamariki will arrange interviews of the children.
- **DO NOT** conduct an investigation of your own before making a report of concern.