

PREVENTION OF AND RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLENCE, ABUSE, NEGLECT OR EXPLOITATION OF SUNNYFIELD CLIENTS POLICY



The purpose of this policy is to develop an organisational culture of prevention, reporting, and a consistent and fair approach by staff in responding to allegations of violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation of Sunnyfield clients, which are not tolerated at Sunnyfield. The purpose of the Sunnyfield Response Team is to educate and to respond effectively to allegations of client violence, abuse, neglect or exploitation. In doing so, the Response Team will follow the Response (to allegations of assault, abuse, neglect, or exploitation of Sunnyfield clients) Team Procedures.

Key principles

- Sunnyfield will provide an organisational culture of reporting and support for all clients that is free from violence, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation.
- Sunnyfield will ensure there is an appropriate safeguarding framework in place, designed to prevent violence, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation, and to safeguard the rights and wellbeing of all clients.
- Sunnyfield will maintain a Response Team that is effective in its response to alleged incidents of violence, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation, including mandatory reporting to external agencies.
- Sunnyfield will support our workforce to be aware of their responsibilities to report allegations of violence, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation, including awareness of the different ways to report such alleged incidents.
- Clients who have been, may have been, or are thought to have been the subject of violence, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation will be treated with the utmost respect and care. They will be assisted in the processes that have to be consequently undertaken when incidents of alleged or actual abuse or assault, particularly a sexual assault, occur. This includes the right to receive prompt and effective counselling, appropriate medical services and prevention from further harm. Access to an advocate can be facilitated for an impacted person where allegations of violence, abuse, neglect and/or exploitation have been made.
- Sunnyfield will ensure any restrictive practices, are only used when in the best interest of the client as authorised by the Restrictive Practice Panel.
- Sunnyfield will follow the Australian common law presumption of innocence, until fact-finding proves otherwise, in its investigations of allegations.

Caroline Cuddihy - CEO

