

PREVENTION OF AND RESPONDING TO ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE, ASSAULT OR NEGLECT 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 abuse, assault or neglect 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 assault, abuse or neglect. In doing so, the Response Team will follow the Response (to allegations of assault, abuse or neglect of Sunnyfield clients) Team Procedures.

Key principles

- Sunnyfield will provide an organisational culture of support for all clients that is free from abuse, assault and neglect.
- Sunnyfield will ensure that there is an appropriate safeguarding framework in place, designed to prevent abuse, assault and neglect, and otherwise 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 abuse, assault or neglect, including mandatory reporting to external agencies.
- Sunnyfield will support its workforce to be aware of their responsibilities to report allegations of abuse, assault and neglect, 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 abuse, assault or neglect will be treated with the utmost respect and care, and assisted in the processes that have to be undertaken consequently upon incidents of alleged or actual abuse or assault, particularly a sexual assault. 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 abuse, assault or neglect have been made.
- Sunnyfield will ensure any restrictive practices, are only used when in the best interest of the Clients 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
Chief Executive Officer

December 2019



Registered
NDIS
provider

Sunnyfield
disAbility Services