

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Every child has the right to live in a safe and nurturing environment, free from neglect, abuse and harm.

The Life Choices Foundation (LCF) takes seriously its roles and responsibilities in keeping children safe. We acknowledge and support the Acts, Regulations and Policies of each State and Territory government, including the following legislation:

NSW - Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998;

QLD - Child Protection Act 1999;

VIC - Child, Youth & Families Act 2005;

TAS - Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997;

WA - Children and Community Services Act 2004;

SA - Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017;

ACT - Children & Young Peoples Act 2008; and

NT - Care and Protection of Children Act 2007.

As an organisation, the intents and purposes of those legislature are embedded in our organisational culture, work practices and behaviour of those who represent us.

Our employees, volunteers and contractors will always treat students and young people with respect and refrain from any behaviours that would in any way be considered harmful.

It is our responsibility to protect the wellbeing and safety of all children and young people. We clearly understand our responsibilities in terms of reporting relevant concerns to the appropriate agency.

We understand that we have a responsibility to:

- Report any reasonable suspicions of harm, neglect or abuse to authorities within the organisation they are working without reasonable delay;
- Report any suspicions of risk of harm, neglect or abuse;
- Acknowledge that in all cases it is not our representative's responsibility in any way to investigate or probe any suspicions, but simply to report; and
- Ensure confidentiality is maintained in regards to any suspicions.

Reports by our representatives will be made to the school principal, child protection authorities and/or the police.

We acknowledge that failure to report a suspicion formed on reasonable grounds that a child or young person is, or may be at risk of harm, may result in a person being prosecuted in accordance with the laws of that State or Territory. It is an organisational requirement of all our employees, contractors and volunteers to follow and comply with the policies and practises in accordance with child protection legislation as described by each State or Territory.

MANDATED RESPONSIBILITIES OF LCF REPRESENTATIVES

All of our employees, contractors and volunteers have signed a declaration stating that they are aware of their legal responsibilities as stated in this document and that they:

- Must comply with legislation and policy that demands they report suspicions of harm;
- Cannot ignore suspicions of harm;
- Cannot investigate suspicions of harm; and
- Must keep suspicions of harm and reports confidential.