



Managing allegations of sexual misconduct

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The Managing allegations of sexual misconduct in SA education and care settings document forms part of a set of child protection policies that have been developed through collaboration between the South Australian Department for Education and Children's Services, Catholic Education South Australia and the Association of Independent Schools of South Australia. It has been developed as a guideline to assist site leaders of government, Catholic and independent education and care services with managing allegations of sexual misconduct by an adult against a child or young person.

The Board publishes this document on its website as a good practice resource for all providers of education and care services. It should be noted, however, that these are guidelines only. The circumstances in each case will differ and it is not possible to provide guidelines to address every possible variation.

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/managingallegationsofsexu.pdf>

The Managing allegations of sexual misconduct in SA education and care settings document:

- informs leaders in education and care services of the steps for managing and reporting allegations of sexual misconduct
- ensures that parents are informed at the appropriate time of allegations of sexual misconduct
- assists parents to understand the process that is followed in managing allegations of sexual misconduct
- states the duties of site leaders and sector offices in managing allegations of sexual misconduct
- provides clear policy direction that enables early intervention, effective management and provision of support for affected children, young people, families and staff.

In the interest of children's wellbeing, the Board particularly endorses the importance of advising parents of children using an education or care service where sexual misconduct is alleged to have occurred - **at the appropriate time. The Board strongly advises approved providers to seek their own legal advice to assist them with the management of an allegation.**

Associated policy documents

Two other intersectoral child protection policies are closely linked to the Managing allegations of sexual misconduct in SA education and care settings resource. Copies of these documents should be held in all education and care sites and can be downloaded from the Board's website.

Protective practices for staff in their interactions with children and young people provides staff in education and care services with an enhanced understanding of appropriate relationship boundaries to help safeguard the emotional and physical wellbeing of children.

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/ProtectivePracticesforSta.pdf>

Responding to problem sexual behaviour involving children and young people provides guidelines to assist staff in education and care services to respond effectively to incidents of problem sexual behaviour involving children and young people.

<http://www.decd.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/RespondingtoProblemSexual.pdf>

Contact details

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