

LUTRUWITA /TASMANIA MATERIAL INSTITUTE

Child Protection Policy

Introduction

Material Institute Limited (MI) is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of children. We have zero tolerance for child abuse. MI is committed to complying with the Child and Youth Safe Standards (Standards) introduced by the Tasmanian Government under the Child and Youth Safe Standards Act (2023), which set out the compulsory minimum standards for organisations that provide services for children and young people (or are used by children and young people), to help protect them from harm.

Everyone working at MI is responsible for the care and protection of children and reporting information about child abuse.

Application

This policy applies to all staff, board directors, contractors and volunteers and to the broad range of situations where interaction with children and young people may occur in the delivery of MI's programs.

To specify MI's working locations where interactions with children and young people may occur in the delivery of programs, this includes Botanical, Bond Place, the Newpin Building, 24 Carrot Garden sites in schools across the state, and community sites where MI delivers events or participates in programming with external organisations.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. ensure that all staff, board directors, contractors and volunteers engaged by MI are aware of the organisation's commitment to creating and maintaining a childsafe environment that meets the Standards
2. facilitate the prevention of child abuse within MI
3. establish the framework for an organisational culture of child safety, including safe and positive learning environments
4. outline the responsibilities that various parties have for identifying possible occasions for child abuse, for establishing controls and procedures for preventing abuse, and for detecting abuse when it occurs
5. guide staff, board directors volunteers and contractors as to action that should be taken where they suspect any abuse within or outside of the organisation
6. provide a clear statement to staff, board directors volunteers and contractors forbidding any such abuse

LUTRUWITA /TASMANIA MATERIAL INSTITUTE

7. provide assurance that all suspected abuse will be reported and fully investigated.

MI's Commitment

MI is committed to promoting and protecting the best interests of children involved in its programs, and to providing a child-safe and child-friendly environment for all children and young people who engage with MI. MI is committed to complying with the Child Safe Standards (Standards) introduced by the Tasmanian Government, which set out the compulsory minimum standards for organisations that provide services for children and young people (or are used by children and young people), to help protect them from harm.

All children, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, or family or social background, have equal rights to protection from abuse. MI has zero tolerance for child abuse. Everyone working at MI is responsible for the care and protection of the children within our care and reporting information about suspected child abuse.

Child protection is a shared responsibility between the MI and all staff, contractors, volunteers, associates, and members of the MI community.

MI will include the opinions of children and use their opinions to develop child protection policies.

MI supports and respects all children, staff contractors and volunteers.

MI is committed to the cultural safety of children, and pays particular attention to the safety and cultural safety of the following groups of children, in recognition of their increased vulnerability, and diverse and unique identities and experiences:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people
- children from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds
- children living with a disability
- children who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or trans
- children who are intersex, non-binary or gender diverse
- children in and out of home care and the youth justice system.

Any person who believes a child is at immediate risk of abuse must contact the police (telephone 000).

LUTRUWITA /TASMANIA MATERIAL INSTITUTE

MI's Approach to Child Safety

In continuing to implement and promote a child-safe system of work, MI will:

- develop an environment in which children feel listened to and valued, and in which their concerns are acted upon, including encouraging and allowing children to participate in decisions important to them
- consult with staff and other appropriate parties, including families and children
- assess and manage the risk of abuse to children who interact with MI, including through recruitment practices and online
- take a proactive approach to child safety, including fostering a culture of openness that encourages all staff to report any concerns of child safety and supports them in this process
- report suspected abuse, neglect or mistreatment promptly to the appropriate authority, whether or not the law requires reporting
- ensure children know the options available to them if they are concerned or feeling unsafe, and foster an environment where children are safe to raise such concerns
- recruit staff who are suitable to work with children and provide high-quality training, supervision and professional development to staff
- have policies, procedures and supports in place to reflect these commitments, and review these regularly.

Related Documents

- [Child Protection Procedures](#)

Response person & role: Sarah Proud (CEO)

Approved by board on: 17 February 2025

Scheduled review date: 17 February 2026