

Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure

Purpose

This policy and procedure is to provide clear and practical guidelines to ensure that complaints and appeals of students can be resolved in accordance with the principles of natural justice, equitably and efficiently.

Scope

This complaints and appeals policy applies to only students enrolled with Youth Plus RTO. Complaints regarding school conduct can be directed to the individual school principal.

Definitions

Complaints and Appeals include but are not restricted to matters of concern to a student relating to training delivery and assessment; the quality of the training; student support and materials; discrimination; sexual harassment, or one of its third parties.

Natural Justice is concerned with ensuring procedural fairness:

- Decisions and processes should be free from bias.
- All parties have the right to be heard.
- The respondent has a right to know of what s/he is accused.
- All parties are told the decision and the reasons for the decision.

Policy

Youth Plus RTO believes that a student, who has a complaint or appeal, has the right to raise the complaint or appeal and expect that every effort will be made to resolve it in accordance with this policy, without prejudice or fear of reprisal or victimisation.

The student has the right to present the complaint or appeal formally and in writing.

Youth Plus RTO will manage all complaints and appeals fairly, equitably and efficiently as possible. Youth Plus RTO will encourage the parties to approach the complaint or appeal with an open mind and to

resolve problems through discussion and conciliation. Where a complaint or appeal cannot be resolved through discussion and conciliation, Youth Plus RTO acknowledges the need for an appropriate external and independent person to mediate between the parties. The parties will be given the opportunity to formally present their case to the independent person.

Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the process of making and resolving complaints Youth Plus RTO seeks to protect the rights and privacy of all involved and to facilitate the return to a comfortable and productive learning environment.

A copy of this Policy is available to all students and staff via the Youth Plus website, L Drive and is available in the Student Handbook. The information will also contain details of external authorities that they may approach.

Procedure

Should a student have a complaint or appeal, the following steps are to be followed:

1. Student should discuss the issue / complaint with the person involved to try and resolve it verbally.
2. If no resolution is reached, the student should discuss the issue / complaint with his / her trainer/teacher to see if it can be resolved.
3. If still no resolution the student should put the following information relating to the complaint or appeal in writing to the HOC;
 - description of the complaint or appeal
 - state whether they wish to formally present their case
 - steps taken to deal with the complaint or appeal
 - what they would like to happen to fix the problem and prevent it from happening again.
4. Upon receipt of the complaint/appeal the HOC acknowledge receipt in writing within 5 days, and will either deal with the issue personally or arrange for it to be dealt with by the Network Principal. This process must commence within 48 hours from the time the Head of Campus receives written notification from the student about their dissatisfaction to the response received from their trainer/teacher and a response / resolution must be presented within 30 days.
5. Should the issue still not be resolved to the student's satisfaction, the student/Head of Campus/Network Principal, may bring it to the attention of Youth Plus RTO, who will make

arrangements for an independent third party to mediate the issue and outline any costs that may be involved with this to the student. The student will be given the opportunity to formally present his or her case. The time frame for this process may vary but should take no longer than 14 days.

6. All parties involved will receive a written statement of the outcomes, including reasons for the decision within the 14 day period. If the process is taking longer than 60 days from the complaint or appeal being received the student will be notified in writing of the reason for the delay and kept informed about all progress.
7. A complaints and appeals record form will be completed and stored in the student file and recorded on the complaints register. This will identify potential areas for improvement and is also important if the same student has a complaint in the future.
8. If the student is still not happy with external mediation, he / she may take his / her complaint to the VET Regulator.
9. All documentation relating to complaints or appeals will be archived for audit purposes for a period of 10 years..

Youth Plus, RTO Manager, will be person responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the policy.