



Australian Skills Centre Pty Ltd t/as Austech Business Institute
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RTO Provider Code: 91744 | CRICOS Provider Code: 03249F
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CG-7: Critical Incident Policy & Procedure

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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that critical incidents or potential critical incidents are managed appropriately and applies to all Austech Business Institute (ABI) international, as well as domestic students.

This complies with Standard 6 of the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018.

Definitions

Critical incident means a traumatic event or the threat of such (within or outside Australia) which causes extreme stress, fear or injury. Critical incidents could include, but are not limited to, events such as:

- Missing students
- Severe verbal or psychological aggression
- Death, serious injury or any threat of these
- Natural disaster; and
- Issues such as domestic violence, sexual assault, drug or alcohol abuse.

Critical Incident Team means a group of persons specified by ABI to plan an immediate response, allocate responsibilities and determine ongoing strategies. This role has been allocated initially to:

- Chief Executive Officer/ Principal Executive Officer.
- **Designated person** means any ABI staff member who either witnesses or is informed about an actual or potential incident. The designated person should immediately inform the most senior member of staff available of the incident. In the meantime, however, the designated person may need to assume temporary control of a critical incident site.

DET means Department of Education and Training



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Emergency Services include:

- Emergency Services - Police, Fire and Ambulance Phone: 000
- Police Headquarters (24 hr) Phone 131 444
- Lifeline (24-hour crisis counselling line) 131 114
- Poisons Information Centre 131 126
- State Emergency Service 132 500
- Health Department 1800 020 103

PRISMS means Provider Registration and International Students Management System

Policy

ABI is committed to protecting staff and students in the event of a critical incident and will take appropriate actions to maximise the safety of all staff and students and any other persons involved in the critical incident.

1. ABI will ensure that as far as possible, risk reduction measures are in place to reduce the likelihood of a critical incident. This is specified in ABI Health and Safety Policy and Procedure.
2. A designated officer and/or critical incident team will manage critical incidents.
3. All staff will receive induction into their role which will include information about health and safety, as well as critical incidents. Training and updates to information will be provided to staff on a regular basis.
4. Students will also receive information about health and safety, including critical incidents during their orientation. Updates to information will be provided to students as required.
5. ABI will provide clear directions for all personnel impacted by a critical incident and will ensure appropriate post-incident support is provided as required.
6. ABI response to critical incidents will always be evaluated and improvements identified and implemented as required including appropriate assistance to people wherever required and ongoing training, support and review for staff.

Procedure

1. Respond to incident

Procedure	Responsibility
<p>Immediate response (within 24 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess situation and consider any risks to own safety before taking any action. ● Alert the most senior staff member available where a critical incident is occurring or is likely to occur. ● Take over temporary control of incident (where there is no threat to that person’s safety). 	<p>All staff/CEO/PEO</p>



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Procedure	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contact emergency services ensuring that all details known about the incident are provided. ● Action evacuation procedures if required and provide first aid or medical assistance as needed. ● Develop and implement a critical incident plan for responding appropriately in a timely manner. ● Liaise with any other parties involved as required (e.g. police, doctors, hospital staff, embassies or consulates and other relevant professionals). ● Contact and inform next to kin of those involved in the incident. ● Briefing staff of the incident to ensure that those involved are aware of the appropriate response for telephone and counter inquiries. ● Prepare appropriate response for media and; ● Keep appropriate and adequate records. 	
<p>Secondary response (48 – 72 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordinate support, including counselling for those directly or indirectly involved ● Review legal issues, including advising family of process/access to assistance as required ● Provide staff and students with factual information about the critical incident including organising a debriefing for all students and staff closely involved with the incident. ● Restore ABI to regular routine, program delivery, and community life as soon as possible. 	<p>Student Support Officer CEO/PEO</p>
<p>Ongoing follow up response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Identify any other persons who have been affected by the critical incident and provide access to support services as required. ● Debrief staff and students on an ongoing basis as required. ● Where the incident results in a student’s suspension or cancellation of studies, notify DET via PRISMS. ● Provide appropriate support in the event of a serious injury or death such as hiring interpreters, making arrangements for hospital/funeral/memorial service/repatriation, obtaining a death certificate, assisting with issues such as insurance and visa issues. ● Monitor the progress of all those affected by the critical incident especially staff and students for signs of delayed stress and the onset of post-traumatic stress disorder. ● Manage long term consequences such as insurance, inquest and legal proceedings. 	<p>Student Support Officer CEO/PEO</p>
<p>Complete critical incident report</p>	<p>Student Support Officer</p>



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Procedure	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On finalisation of the critical incident, prepare a critical incident report Provide a copy of the critical incident report to the CEO/PEO File copy of critical incident report 	

2. Evaluate critical incident response

Procedure	Responsibility
<p>Evaluation of response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As soon as possible after the critical incident meet to review the implementation of procedures and the effectiveness of the response. Document any changes required to procedures based on the review. Implement changes identified. File copy of the review findings. 	CEO/PEO

Document Control

Document No. & Name:	CG-7 - Critical Incident Policy & Procedure P&P V11
Quality Area:	CG Corporate Governance
Author:	Austech Business Institute
Status:	Approved
Approved By:	Ashish Jain
Approval Date:	13/12/2022
Review Date:	01/12/2022
Standards:	Standard 6 National Code 2018