

Statement of Commitment to Child Safe Standards

Statement of commitment by GOTAFE of Zero Tolerance of all forms of child abuse and neglect

All children and young people have the right to **feel safe** and **be safe** regardless of gender, sexual identity, race, national origin, religious beliefs or other affiliations, age, family structure, disability, or sexual orientation.

GOTAFE has a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of child abuse and neglect and we recognise that all children and young people have a right to be kept safe from harm.

GOTAFE is committed to, and will uphold the following principles in applying this Policy:

- **Preventing child abuse:** identifying child abuse risks early and removing and reducing these risks.
- **Zero-tolerance of child abuse:** all allegations and safety concerns will be treated very seriously, in a consistent manner and expeditiously addressed.
- **Reporting suspected child abuse:** complying with our legal and moral obligations to contact authorities when we are worried about a child's or young person's safety.
- **Protecting equity and diversity:** children and young people feel safe and are listened to and respected regardless of their abilities, sex, gender, sexual orientation religion, cultural or economic background.
- **Safety, participation and empowerment:** employees and students, including children and young people, are aware of child safety practices and have access to raise concerns about abuse or misconduct. Students are supported to raise concerns through GOTAFE's student support services, and all staff receive relevant training and support to enable them to do so.
- **Training and educating:** our employees receive training and support, proportionate to their role, to ensure they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to provide children and young people with safe learning environments; understand the responsibilities and boundaries of their roles; and respond to any child safety concerns.
- **Continuous improvement:** regularly reviewing and removing any systemic issues which may be contributing to, or hindering, GOTAFE from being safe, or providing a safe environment.

GOTAFE is committed to fostering a culture where all employees, students, contractors, visitors, children, young people and their families feel able to raise child safe-guarding concerns.

GOTAFE will take all allegations of abuse against a child seriously and will report all allegations to the appropriate authorities for further investigation.

The safety and wellbeing of children and young people is a priority for GOTAFE across all programs and services and in all domains, including on-line activities and events.