

## **Scope**

This Policy applies to all workers including employees, contractors and volunteers and trustees.

## **Overview**

CANDI seeks to provide a work environment that is safe and enjoyable for all.

Workplace bullying has a detrimental effect on the Charity and its people. It can create an unsafe working environment, result in a loss of trained and talented workers and volunteers, cause the breakdown of teams and individual relationships, increase absenteeism and reduce efficiency and productivity. People who are bullied can become distressed, anxious, withdrawn and can lose self-esteem and self-confidence. Workplace bullying is also in some circumstances against the law. For these reasons, bullying will not be tolerated by the Charity.

CANDI recognizes that workplace bullying may involve comments and behaviours that offend some people and not others. CANDI accepts that individuals may react differently to certain comments and behaviour. That is why a minimum standard of behaviour is required of workers/volunteers and service users. This standard aims to be respectful of all workers/volunteers and service users.

CANDI recognizes that workplace bullying can take place though a number of different methods of communication including face to face, email, text messaging and social media platforms. As such, his Policy applies to all methods of communication through which workplace bullying can take place

This Policy applies to behaviours that occur:

- In connection with work, even if it occurs outside normal working hours;
- During work activities, for example, when dealing with clients;
- At work related events and functions, for example, at Christmas parties; and
- On social media platforms where workers interact.

## **What is workplace bullying?**

Workplace bullying occurs when an individual, or a group of individuals, repeatedly behaves unreasonably towards a worker, or a group of workers, and the behaviours creates a risk to health and safety. It includes both physical and psychological abuse.

Bullying behaviours can take many different forms, from the obvious (direct) to the more subtle (indirect). The following are some examples of direct bullying:

- Abusive, insulting or offensive language or comments;
- Violent, aggressive or intimidating conduct;
- Belittling or humiliating comments;
- Victimization; and
- Practical jokes or initiation.

The following are some examples of indirect bullying:

- Unjustified criticism or complaints;
- Deliberately excluding someone from work-related activities;
- Withholding information that is vital for effective work performance;

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- Setting unreasonable timelines or constantly changing deadlines;
- Setting tasks that are unreasonably below or beyond a person's skill level;
- Denying access to information, supervision, consultation or resources to the detriment of the worker;
- Spreading misinformation or malicious rumours; and
- Changing work arrangements such as rosters and leave to deliberately inconvenience a particular worker or workers.

The above examples are not an exhaustive list of bullying behaviours. They are indicative of the type of behaviours that may constitute bullying and are therefore unacceptable to the Company. If you are unsure whether behaviours not provided on this list constitutes bullying, you should contact your direct supervisor in the first instance.

### What is not workplace bullying?

Reasonable management action taken by managers or supervisors to direct and control the way work is carried out is not considered to be workplace bullying, if the action is taken in a reasonable and lawful way.

The following are some examples of reasonable management action:

- Realistic and achievable performance goals, standards and deadlines;
- Fair and appropriate rostering and allocation of working hours;
- Transferring a worker to another area or role for operational reasons;
- Deciding not to select a worker for a promotion where a fair and transparent process is followed;
- Informing a worker about unsatisfactory work performance in an honest, fair and constructive way;
- Informing a worker about unreasonable behaviour in an objective and confidential way;
- Implementing organizational changes or restructuring; and
- Taking disciplinary action, including suspension or terminating employment where appropriate or justified in the circumstances.

### Other unacceptable conduct

Single incidents of unreasonable behaviour (such as harassment, violence or threatening behaviours) can also present a risk to health and safety and will not be tolerated.

Harassment is considered to be any form of behaviour that is:

- Unwanted;
- Offends, humiliates or intimidates; or
- Creates a hostile environment.

Where such conduct occurs towards a person due to a particular characteristic of that person (such as when based on sex, sexual orientation, pregnancy, marital status, age, disability, ethnicity or race,) this may be unlawful under discrimination and equal opportunity law, even if it is limited to a single incident.

For example, sexual harassment is unlawful even where it is not repeated conduct. All workers are required to comply with the CANDI. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy which provides further guidance in this area.

## **Violence**

CANDI will also not tolerate any form of workplace violence. Workplace violence is considered to be any incident where a person is physically attacked or threatened in the workplace, whether this is directed to a co-worker, subcontractor, client, customer or visitor.

It includes (but is not limited to):

- Any type of direct physical contact such as punching, pushing, tripping, spitting or blocking of someone's way;
- Any form of unwanted physical contact.

## **Managers', supervisors' and trustee roles.**

Managers, supervisors and trustees have an important role to play in terms of fostering a culture that does not tolerate or encourage harassment, bullying or workplace violence and should ensure that they do not engage in any conduct of this nature themselves.

Managers, supervisors and trustees should also ensure that workers/volunteers understand this Policy and consequences of non-compliance. When managers, supervisors and trustees observe harassment, bullying or workplace violence occurring, they should take steps to prevent this conduct from continuing and warn the person or people involved of the consequences if the behaviour continues (including disciplinary measures up to and including termination of employment).

Managers and supervisors must also treat all grievances raised by workers in accordance with the CANDI Grievance Policy.

## **Workers' role**

CANDI expects workers:

- Not to engage in harassment, bullying or workplace violence;
- Not to aid, abet or encourage others to engage in harassment, bullying or workplace violence;
- To behave in a responsible and professional manner;
- Treat others in the workplace with courtesy and respect;
- Listen and respond appropriately to the views and concerns of others; and
- To be fair and honest in their dealings with others.

## **Are you experiencing bullying, harassment or being subject to violence?**

Complaints of bullying, harassment and workplace violence will be taken seriously and will be handled in accordance with the CANDI Grievance Policy.

If you make a complaint of workplace bullying, harassment or violence it will be taken seriously and will be dealt with sympathetically and in a confidential manner (except where CANDI deems it is necessary to disclose information in order to properly deal with the complaint).

You will not be victimized or treated unfairly for making a complaint.

If the claim is found to be substantiated, CANDI will act in accordance with its Disciplinary Policy.

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Please note that any worker found to have fabricated a complaint may be subject to disciplinary action under the Disciplinary & Termination Policy, up to and including termination of employment.

### Other measures

CANDI also recognizes the need for open communication in the workplace. CANDI may implement what training it considers necessary in relation to behavioural standards and where appropriate will hold meetings to address standards, expectations and any issues. The frequency, dates and form of this training and meetings will be determined by the Board of Trustees.

### Document control

Last updated	12 March 2024
Next review	9 March 2027