

Overseas Student Support Services Policy

1 PURPOSE

To assist all overseas students to achieve successful completion of their education and training through the provision of quality training and support services and orientation.

To achieve this, this policy aims to provide a framework for supporting students in adjusting to study and life in Australia, to achieve their learning goals and to maintain satisfactory progress towards meeting all learning outcomes.

This policy outlines support services available to overseas students as well as how student information on these services is disseminated and how students may access them.

2 SCOPE

All students who study at Bandicoot Group Pty Ltd T/A Salford College will be provided the appropriate support from Student Support Officers in relation to study, academic issues, accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements. Overseas students and staff will be given information and advice pertaining to their personal safety and security.

3 DEFINITIONS

Student contact officer	The National Code 2018 Standard 6.5 requires the provider to have a designated member of staff to be the official point of contact for students. You must list a designated member of staff – or members of staff – to be the official point of contact for students (6.5). You must keep these contact details up to date.
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4 POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 Students will be provided with contact details referring them to relevant professionals in the instance that they require assistance outside the scope of student services. Any referrals are conducted at no cost to the student, however there may be fees and charges involved where an external service is used by the student. This should be clarified with the student prior to using external services. The following student support services are available and accessible for all overseas students studying with Bandicoot Group Pty Ltd T/A Salford College: ^(6.2)

- student support services available to students in the transition to life and study in a new environment
- legal services
- emergency and health services

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- facilities and resources
- complaints and appeals processes; and
- any student visa condition relating to course progress and/or attendance as appropriate.
- working and employment rights and conditions

4.2 ORIENTATION

A culturally sensitive and age-appropriate orientation must be undertaken, in support of assisting students (and their families) to adjust to living in Australia, commencing their study and achieving the academic progress as outlined in their Training Plans. All information is to be provided without cost to the student.

The orientation programme should be accessible to all overseas students and allow for late arrivals and students who begin at different entry points. (Refer to: Overseas Student Orientation Policy CRICOS)

Information provided on orientation should be included in, and not conflicting with the student handbooks and website.

The orientation will cover information regarding studying in Australia, such as the following: (6.1)

- support services available to assist in the transition into life and study in Australia.
- legal services (6.1.1, 6.1.3)
- information on visa conditions relating to course progress and, if applicable, attendance (6.1.7)
- emergency and health services i.e., police, hospitals, fire, ambulance (6.1.4)
- English language and study assistance programs (6.1.3)
- personal and crisis support services available and how to access them (6.1.8)
- information on employment rights and conditions, resolving workplace issues and services available such as the Fair Work Ombudsman (6.1.9)
- key points and information on housing and accommodation with regulators contact information.
- Australian currency, banking, and shopping
- Personal security and safety (6.9.1)

The orientation will also cover information about the RTO such as

- a comprehensive student handbook
- outline of facilities and resources
- relevant course information
- requirements for course attendance and progress, as appropriate (6.1.7)
- important dates such as term/study period/semester, breaks and public holiday dates.
- complaints and appeals processes.
- information on mediation and or Overseas Students Ombudsman
- critical Incidents and how they are handled.
- reinforcing the RTO expectations on behaviour and academic progress

4.3 INTRODUCING STUDENT SUPPORT

Engaging students through an orientation day within the first week of their study period, orientation day will cover key points of the Student Support Program and role of the SSO, such as:

- Who are their Student Support Officers / Student Contact Officer?
- When are they available?
- Contact details.

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4.4 PROVISION OF INFORMATION

Assistance shall be provided to all students, regardless of a student's place of study, to access study support and welfare-related services, both at orientation and throughout their time as a student. (6.3)

- 4.4.1 Bandicoot Group Pty Ltd T/A Salford College provides free services designed to assist students in achieving academic progress, with sufficient student support personnel to meet the needs of the overseas students enrolled. (6.6)
- 4.4.2 Electronic methods of disseminating such information include the RTO website, emails, SMS etc.
- 4.4.3 Written formats methods of disseminating such information include the student handbook, noticeboard, newsletters or even a wallet-sized card with useful numbers.
- 4.4.4 Students have the right to privacy and as such all staff, policies and practices must consciously safeguard the student's privacy and confidentiality to satisfy the Privacy Act.
- 4.4.5 Student Support staff are engaged to provide such assistance, with at least one designated member of staff to be appointed as Student Contact Officer, this officer or officers must have access to the most up-to-date details regarding support services. (6.5)
- 4.4.6 Bandicoot Group Pty Ltd T/A Salford College has comprehensive Critical Incident policies and procedures to support students in times of need. These procedures contain immediate, during, after and post CI event and are well documented with feedback and review components. (6.8)
- 4.4.7 Bandicoot Group Pty Ltd T/A Salford College have dedicated staff as points of contact on all issues pertaining to a student's academic, living in the community and social concerns.
- 4.4.8 Bandicoot Group Pty Ltd T/A Salford College are committed to ensuring that their Student Support Officers as well as any staff members who interact with overseas students are well informed and up to date with the ESOS framework and have an understanding of that framework, including our obligations and any possible implications of these obligations. (6.7)
- 4.4.9 All modes of study and learning needs will be catered for to facilitate access to and the provision of student support services, such as students undertaking practical or industry work placements, or online units of study. (6.4)

4.5 SAFETY AND PERSONAL SECURITY

Bandicoot Group Pty Ltd T/A Salford College is committed to taking all reasonable steps to ensure a safe, secure, and beneficial environment is maintained for overseas students, both on campus and at practical or industry work placements.

- 4.5.1 Advice on possible actions taken to enhance safety and personal security is given at orientation and in the student and staff handbooks.
- 4.5.2 Personal security and safety information is provided and readily available at any time to both students and staff. (6.9.1)
- 4.5.3 Detailed information will be provided to all overseas students about how to seek assistance for and report any incidents which may significantly impact upon their wellbeing, (including critical incidents). (6.9.2)

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- 4.5.4 Bandicoot Group Pty Ltd T/A Salford College will provide overseas students with general information on safety and awareness relevant to life in Australia or refer them to such information as appropriate (including electronically). (6.9.3)

5 RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1.1 It is the responsibility of Student Support Officers to respond to student enquiries and the Student Contact Officer to be a first contact for students. Where student enquiries or needs are beyond the scope of training, knowledge, or experience of the Student Support Officer they must seek advice from their manager.
- 5.1.2 Student Support Officers shall be responsible for initiating the Critical Incident procedures if they have deemed it a Critical Incident.
- 5.1.3 Student Support Officers shall maintain a written record of any critical incident and remedial action taken by the registered provider for at least two years after the overseas student ceases to be an accepted student. (6.8)
- 5.1.4 Student Support Officers must update student management system for each enquiry and all documentation is to be filed in the student's file.
- 5.1.5 Student Support Officers must ensure that any written response to a student enquiry is generated from the Student Management System, so it has a contact log and a copy of the information sent. No verbal outcomes are to be acceptable practice by Bandicoot Group Pty Ltd T/A Salford College staff.
- 5.1.6 Responsibility for briefing all staff of obligations under the ESOS Framework and National Code Standards and the implications of these for students lie with senior staff.
- 5.1.7 Day to day responsibility for the oversight and management of student welfare support services lies with Student Support Officer.
- 5.1.8 The Director/CEO will have overall responsibility for this policy and the ensuing procedures.
- 5.1.9 The day-to-day management of implementing the policy is the responsibility of the Training Manager, to whom the Student Support staff report.
- 5.1.10 It is the responsibility of the Director/CEO to ensure that all staff members who interact directly with overseas students are aware of the ESOS framework, in particular the providers' obligations under the ESOS framework.

5.2 STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students shall be made aware of the following responsibilities at orientation and in their student handbook:

- Overseas students on a student visa have responsibilities to satisfy their visa conditions.
- Overseas students must advise the RTO of any changes in their Australian and/or country of origin addresses and phone numbers within 7 days.

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- Visa and health insurance renewal is the compulsory responsibility of the student. All overseas students must ensure that they maintain a valid visa and any health insurance (OHSC) as a condition of their visa

6 RELATED LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

- Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000
- National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018, known as 'the National Code 2018' Standard
- ELICOS Standards 2018
- Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015– 1, 4, 5

7 RELATED POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND DOCUMENTS

- Younger Overseas Student Policy
- Complaints & Appeals Policy
- Complaints & Appeals Procedure
- Critical Incident Policy
- Critical Incident Procedure
- Critical Incident Form
- Overseas Student Orientation Policy
- Overseas Student Orientation Checklist

Salford College Student Contact point for support services at all times.
Ash Goyal: 08 72211940

SUPPORT SERVICES LIST

Name of Organisation	Website	Phone #	Email	Client Needs Addressed
AA - Alcoholics Anonymous	www.aa.org.au	1300 222 222	http://www.aa.org.au/contact-central-service-offices.php	Clients who are/or have been affected by alcoholism
Australia.gov.au	http://www.australia.gov.au/	Website	Refer to Website	Covers a broad range of assistive support including LLN

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Name of Organisation	Website	Phone #	Email	Client Needs Addressed
Adult Migrant English Program	www.education.gov.au/adult-migrant-english-program-0	1300 566 046	http://www.education.gov.au/feedback-and-enquiry-form	Assisting clients who have migrated to Australia and require assistance with LLN
Beyond Blue	www.beyondblue.org.au	1300 224 636	https://online.beyondblue.org.au/WebModules/Email/InitialInformation.aspx	For clients who are experiencing anxiety and/or depression
Black Dog Institute	www.blackdoginstitute.org.au	(02) 9382 2991	http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/aboutus/contactus.cfm	Depression and Bipolar Disorder Information Australia
NSW Community Help	www.community.nsw.gov.au	1300 555 727	Refer to website	For clients who are experiencing difficulties in the home, domestic violence, child abuse and neglect
CEDD - Eating Disorder Help Centre	www.cedd.org.au	Refer to website	info@cedd.org.au	To assist clients who are experiencing issues with eating disorders
Kids Helpline	www.kidshelp.com.au	1800 551 800	Webchat or Email Available Online	Services for assisting children or people who are concerned about a child
Just Ask Us!	www.justaskus.org.au	03 8413 8413	http://www.turningpoint.org.au/About-Us/Contact-Us2.aspx	For clients who are concerned they may have a drug (incl. alcohol), emotional or mental health concern
Precision Consultancy	http://www.precisionconsultancy.com.au/acs_framework/	03 9606 0118	http://www.precisionconsultancy.com.au/contact/	Access to LLN assessment tasks that can be used for a variety of industries
Lifeline Australia	www.lifeline.org.au	13 11 14	https://www.lifeline.org.au/Get-Help/Online-Services/crisis-chat	Clients who may be in a crisis or at risk of suicide or know of someone at risk of suicide
The Reading Writing Hotline	http://readingwritinghotline.edu.au/	1300 655 506	rwhotline@det.nsw.edu.au	If a client is having difficulty with reading, writing and numeracy
NA - Narcotics Anonymous	http://na.org.au/index.php?lang=en	1300 652 820	info@na.org.au	Clients who are/or have been affected by drugs
NSW Rape Crisis Centre	www.nswrapecrisis.com.au	1800 424 017	http://www.nswrapecrisis.com.au/GetHelp/NSWServices.aspx	To assist clients, and their non-offending supporters, who have experience or are at risk of sexual assault
Workplace Bullying Helpline	www.workershealth.com.au	02 4926 2129	newc.admin@workershealth.com.au	For clients who have been affected by bullying

Name of Organisation	Website	Phone #	Email	Client Needs Addressed
Suicide Helpline	www.suicideline.org.au	1300 651 251	Available on website	For clients who may be contemplating suicide or don't know how to help someone in their family who has been affected
Men's Helpline Australia	https://www.mensline.org.au/	1300 78 99 78		For male clients who have male related health issues
Wesley Mission	www.wesleymission.org.au	(02) 9263 5555	Available on website	Helping people with a wide range of issues affecting communities and individuals.
National Council for Single Mothers and their Children	http://www.ncsmc.org.au/	(08) 8354 3856	ncsmc@ncsmc.org.au	Single mothers who need assistance
Physical disability Australia	http://www.pda.org.au/	(02) 6567 1500	Available on website	For clients who require assistance with their physical disability
Deaf Australia Translating and Interpreting Service	http://www.deafau.org.au/	(07) 3357 8266	Available on website	For assisting the trainer who might require an interpreter for clients who are deaf or have hearing impairments
Salvo Care Line	http://salvos.org.au/salvocareline/	1300 36 36 22	Available on website	For clients who require financial assistance or emergency care
Disability Advocacy Network Aust.	http://www.dana.org.au/	(02) 6175 1300	Available on website	For clients who may require assistance with their disability
National Disability Service	http://www.nds.org.au/	(02) 6283 3200	nds@nds.org.au	For clients who may require assistance with their disability
Vision Australia	http://www.visionaustralia.org/	1300 84 74 66	info@visionaustralia.org	For clients who require assistance due to vision impairment
Community Migrant Resource Centre	http://www.cmrc.com.au/	(02) 9687 9907	Available on website	For clients who may need assistance for Migration support services
Family and Community Services Ageing, Disability and Home Care	http://www.adhc.nsw.gov.au/	(02) 9377 6000	servicembx@facsnsw.gov.au	Support for family, ageing, disability or home care
Job Access	https://www.jobaccess.gov.au/	1800 464 800	hotline@workfocus.com	Driving Disability Employment through a variety of support services
Department of health/Mental health	www.health.gov.au	(02) 6289 1555	Available on website	Support for students who are affected by health or mental health issues

Salford College Student Contact point for support services at all times.

Ash Goyal: 08 72211940

Mobile for all critical incidents: 0404 170 734

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