

POLICY STATEMENT

Workplace Health and Safety Policy

POLICY

Brisbane Catholic Education is committed to providing and maintaining safe and healthy learning and working environments for its employees, students in its care, volunteers and visitors to its workplaces. In doing so it enacts the Church's social justice teachings. This is done according to the requirements of the Workplace Health and Safety Act and its regulations and advisory standards, other relevant legislation and administrative regulations, procedures and guidelines adopted by Brisbane Catholic Education.

RATIONALE

For several years Brisbane Catholic Education has promoted workplace health and safety in Brisbane Catholic Education schools and colleges through a variety of program initiatives and has encouraged schools to implement appropriate local policies and procedures.

This approach is founded upon the Church's social justice teachings, the existence of legislative requirements and the legal duties of care of the teacher to student and employer to employee.

Under the Workplace Health and Safety Act, Brisbane Catholic Education has an obligation to promote the workplace health and safety of its employees at work, students, volunteers and visitors to its facilities, with particular emphasis on the process of risk management.

In parish schools and colleges, the responsibility for workplace health and safety by the provision and maintenance of safe buildings, grounds and equipment is shared by school and parish.

CONSEQUENCES

- Brisbane Catholic Education will coordinate strategies to meet relevant legislative requirements and organisational objectives regarding the management of workplace health and safety risks.
- Brisbane Catholic Education schools and colleges will develop and implement policies and procedures that support this policy.
- Regular audits of workplace health and safety performance of Brisbane Catholic Education schools and colleges, and the Brisbane Catholic Education Centre will be undertaken.

- Support and advice will be offered, where appropriate, to principals, parish priests, other members of Brisbane Catholic Education school and college communities and staff of the Brisbane Catholic Education Centre regarding legislative requirements and the management of workplace health and safety risks.
- Every Brisbane Catholic Education school and college will establish and maintain a Workplace Health and Safety Committee in accordance with Brisbane Catholic Education guidelines.
- The responsibilities with regard to buildings, grounds and equipment in parish schools and colleges will be clearly defined and communicated.
- Employees, students, volunteers and visitors will continue to have shared responsibility for their own health and safety, and that of others who may be affected by their actions.

REFERENCES

- Administrative Handbook*, Brisbane Catholic Education
- Australian/New Zealand Standard 4360 (1999) – Risk Management*, Standards Australia & Standards New Zealand
- Australian/New Zealand Standard 4804 (1997) – Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems – General Guidelines on Principles, Systems and Supporting Techniques*, Standards Australia & Standards New Zealand
- School Health and Safety Resource Folder*, Brisbane Catholic Education
- Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 (Qld)*, Queensland Government, GoPrint, Brisbane