

## REIT CODE OF PRACTICE FOR TRAINING

### EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS

- We undertake to provide educational programmes of a high professional standard aimed at enhancing the personal and professional objectives and goals of the participants.
- Educational standards and outcomes will be in compliance with educational, industry and business criteria.
- We will ensure that each trainee is provided with the opportunity and resources necessary to achieve the agreed vocational education outcomes.
- All trainers are required to adhere to the policies and management practises as determined by the Real Estate Institute of Tasmania in ensuring that professional standards in marketing and delivery of training courses are maintained.
- Trainers and assessors are required to meet the qualification and vocational experience requirements under the (VET) Quality Framework .
- All trainers will continually review their own performance on the basis of self analysis, direct feedback from trainees and feedback from the REIT training department.

### MARKETING

- We will market our educational programmes with integrity, accuracy and professionalism and without ambiguity. No false or misleading comparisons will be made with any other providers or courses.

### PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism refers to the practice of presenting the words of another author (it may be a text writer or another student) as your own. This is not permitted. At times you will be asked to learn about and discuss the views or theories of others. This should be done with appropriate acknowledgement of source material.

In general:

- Always express your own ideas in your own words. When drawing from the work of other authors cite the source and show the quotation in inverted commas.*
- Do not incorporate the words used by text writers, your trainer or other students in your answer unless you attribute those words to their author.*
- Never hand in an assignment which is the same as, or closely similar to, another student's assignment. When two or more substantially similar assignments are received, the candidates concerned are likely to both be asked to resubmit*
- Do not provide, as evidence of your own competence, documentation or other work that has been completed by another person*

All cases plagiarism WILL be brought to the attention of the Training Manager. Any Candidates involved will be asked to show cause as to why they should not be removed from the Training Course.

Students will be;

1. Required at their own expense to have another assignment written by the trainer and re submit that assignment
2. If this is the second such incident, then the student may be removed from the training course at the discretion of the Training and Business Development Manager and Chief Executive Officer.

## **TRAINEE INFORMATION**

- We undertake to provide all participants in qualifications with accurate up to date information prior to commencement of the course including at least the following:
  1. a copy of the Real Estate Institute of Tasmania's Code of Practice for Training
  2. admission procedures and criteria
  3. copy of refund policy
  4. competencies to be achieved by trainees
  5. assessment procedures
  6. arrangements for the recognition of prior learning
  7. grievance/appeal procedure
  8. facilities and equipment

## **RECRUITMENT AND ENROLMENTS**

- Recruitment, selection and enrolment will be undertaken in accordance with the stated course objectives, outcomes and pre requisites.
- Recruitment will be conducted at all times in an ethical and responsible manner that is consistent with the principles of social justice. All decisions will comply with equal opportunity and any other relevant legislation.

## **STUDENTS GRIEVANCES/APPEALS**

On occasion, an individual or group may feel the need to make a formal complaint. All complaints will be treated confidentially and administered in accordance with the relevant legislative guidelines and policies and procedures.

Complaints may be in relation, but not limited to:

- enrolment process
- administrative errors
- access and equity
- assessment process quality and outcomes
- learners
- course content quality, accessibility and usability
- the quality of course delivery
- teaching facilities and learning resources,
- Trainers & assessors
- REIT Staff,
- Academic and behavioral misconduct

- Privacy
- Workplace Health & Safety including safety, bullying, discrimination; harassment.

We have a document procedure which explains how complaints are handled by REIT.

All complaints and appeals are taken seriously and their findings incorporated into procedures as appropriate.

Should a student have a complaint or appeal, the following steps are to be followed:

1. Student should discuss the issue / complaint with the person involved to try and resolve it verbally.
2. If no resolution is reached, the student should discuss the issue / complaint with his / her trainer to see if it can be resolved.
3. If still no resolution the student should put the following information relating to the complaint or appeal in writing:
  - description of the complaint or appeal
    - state whether you wish to formally present your case
    - steps you have taken to deal with the it
    - what you would like to happen to fix the problem and prevent it from happening again.
4. The student brings the complaint or appeal to the attention of the trainer within seven (7) days of the issue taking place.
5. If the complaint or appeal is not dealt with to the student's satisfaction within the seven (7) day period, s/he may bring it to the attention of the Training Manager. The Training Manager will either deal with the issue personally or arrange for it to be dealt with by a management representative. This process must commence within 48 hours from the time the Training Manager receives written notification from the student about their dissatisfaction to the response received from their trainer and a response / resolution must be presented within 7 days.
6. Should the issue still not be resolved to the student's satisfaction, The Real Estate Institute of Tasmania will make arrangements for an independent external person to resolve the issue. The student will be given the opportunity to formally present his or her case. The time frame for this process may vary but should take no longer than 14 days.
7. All parties involved will receive a written statement of the outcomes, including reasons for the decision within the 14 day period.
8. If the student is still not happy with external mediation, he / she may take his / her complaint to the Australian Skills Quality Authority.
9. All documentation relating to complaints or appeals should be archived for audit purposes.
10. In the event that the complaint involves the Training Manager, the complainant may address their complaint directly to the Executive Officer.

The Real Estate Institute of Tasmania Training Manager will be person responsible for the implementation and maintenance of the policy.

### **Procedural Fairness & Natural Justice**

The REIT applies the principles of procedural fairness and natural justice throughout the handling process:

- Any person subject to a decision by the REIT, or anyone who has allegations made against them, has the opportunity to tell their side of the story before a decision is made.
- Complainants, or anyone who has allegations made against them, will be provided with an opportunity to formally present their case.
- The decision maker will be independent of the complaint/decision being reviewed
- Decisions made by the REIT will be done so in an unbiased and fair manner based on facts provided or determined through investigation of a complaint.
- The REIT will address each complaint in a confidential, effective and timely manner.

### ASSESSMENT APPEAL PROCESS

A student having any concerns or issues about the assessment process or in particular, disagreeing with an assessment) should first approach the trainer / assessor to discuss them. If the student is still dissatisfied after this, the student should be offered the formal appeal process as follows:

- Request and complete an "Appeal Application Form" (Annexure D) ( */Policies & Procedures/Appeal Application Form*) and submit it no later than 14 days after the discussions with the trainer / assessor.
- The REIT will then appoint another appropriately qualified assessor to review the assessment or otherwise resolve the issue.
- Recommendations from this third party should be made available in writing to the student within 3 weeks of receiving the application.
- The student will be advised, in writing, of the outcome of the appeal, including reasons for the decision
- The fee for submission of a formal appeal is documented in the REIT Fees and Charges Policy, if the appeal is in the favour of the student this fee will be refunded

#### Note:

- Participants may use an advocate or support person during the appeal. It is the participant's responsibility to arrange and coordinate this process.
- All information relevant to the appeal will remain confidential.

### ACCESS & EQUITY POLICY FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

Access and Equity policies are incorporated into operational procedures Code of Practice. REIT is committed to providing access and equity in all aspects of training. REIT will not discriminate unlawfully against any person in the processes of skill development opportunities. At REIT we understand that some students have different needs, and as a result we may be able to offer a range of different study options to cater for these various needs and extenuating circumstances.

REIT undertakes to:

- Promote access to training for all people regardless of gender, socio economic background, disability, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age or race
- Ensure training services are delivered in a non discriminatory, open and respectful

- manner
- Train all staff members so that they are appropriately skilled in access and equity issues
  - Conduct student selection in a manner that includes and reflects the diverse student population
  - Actively encourage the participation of students from traditionally disadvantaged groups
  - Provide varied and flexible teaching methods to cater for people with different learning needs within a group

### **Anti Discrimination, Human Rights and Equal Opportunity**

REIT takes great care to ensure that all students and staff members are treated fairly and equitably and that everyone on REITs premises complies with the Anti Discrimination Act. Discrimination means treating someone unfairly because they belong in a particular group of people. Harassment is unwelcome, unsolicited and non reciprocated behaviour and it is based on an inappropriate assumption of power. Harassment may be intentional or unintentional and it may take many forms, such as verbal, written or physical. As in any area of human interaction, the boundaries of what constitutes harassment victimisation and bullying may vary from person to person. Employees and students of REIT will recognise and respect the boundaries set by others. If you believe you are experiencing harassment or discrimination refer the matter to the CEO.

All people associated with REIT may expect the same rights:

- The right to learn, teach or carry out their duties
- The right to be treated fairly and with respect
- The right to be safe in the workplace
- The right to have all reports of harassment to be treated seriously, impartially and sensitively. Harassment and discrimination, including victimisation and bullying, is unwelcome, uninvited and unacceptable behaviour that will not be tolerated
- The right to inform management of any harassment and management has the responsibility to take immediate and appropriate action to address it

Students have the responsibility to:

- Allow others to learn
- Make REIT a safe place to study by not threatening, bullying, or hurting others in any way
- Make the classroom safe by obeying instructions; and
- Not steal, damage or destroy the belongings of others

It is expected that all staff will:

- When acting in the course of their employment, comply with all applicable Australian laws
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality
- Disclose, and take reasonable steps to avoid any conflict of interest in connection with their employment
- Not use status, power or authority, in order to gain, or seek to gain a benefit or advantage for the employee or for any other person.

Victimisation is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. No person making a complaint or assisting in the investigation of a complaint will be victimised. Harassment should not be confused with legitimate comment and advice which may include

feedback given appropriately by management or trainers and assessors.

### **Discrimination**

Discrimination is broadly defined as treating one person unfairly over another based on factors that are unrelated to their ability or potential. State and Federal legislation protects people at work and in education from discrimination on the basis of certain attributes and from being treated unfairly because they have complained about discrimination.

Under the Fair Work Act 2009, discrimination is disadvantaging someone in the workplace or education because of their:

- race and/or colour
- sex
- sexual preference
- age
- physical or mental disability
- marital status
- family or carer's responsibilities
- pregnancy
- religion
- political opinion

Students are encouraged to inform the REIT of any additional services they require. The REIT enrolment form identifies the following student needs:

Disability

Language, Literacy, Numeracy

Previous Work Experience

Education History

Cultural differences

Where a student identifies additional services they require this will be managed by the REIT Training Manager on a case by case basis, in discussion with the student and where appropriate their employer.

If an individual trainee, an employer or a trainee or a trainer / assessor for a trainee identifies that the trainee may have problems with language, literacy and numeracy, the Training Manager should discuss the available options with the employer and where necessary instigate appropriate assessment and remedial action. The Tasmanian Skills Institute currently is contracted by Skills Tasmania to provide assessment and remedial services to trainees on a training agreement. Contact the Adult Literacy unit at the Tasmanian Skills Institute.

Any student requiring any other support, welfare or guidance services should be referred to the Training Manager, where a service need is identified, a suitable solution will developed and adopted in accordance with access and equity principals.

A Grievance/Complaints register will be used to record complaint numbers and outcomes.

Any access and equity issues should be referred to the CEO or the Training Manager.

### **Sexual Harassment**

The Real Estate Institute of Tasmania views sexual harassment as a type of discrimination. It is also unlawful under Equal Opportunity legislation. Sexual harassment can consist of the following:

- Unwelcome comments about a person's sex life or physical appearance

- Suggestive behaviour such as leering or ogling
- Unnecessary familiarity such as deliberately brushing up against a person
- Sexual jokes, offensive telephone calls, photographs, reading matter or objects
- Sexual propositions or continual requests for a date
- Physical contact such as touching or fondling

The RTOs' view on sexual harassment of any type is specific. Any member of the RTO found conducting him / herself in an unprofessional manner towards a student member, or for that matter visa versa, shall be immediately dismissed from the RTO with no further notice.

### **Discrimination and Sexual harassment**

It is important for the trainer to consider what strategies to use in the event of discrimination or sexual harassment.

At times this may present a challenge; however, the trainer might take the following recommendations into consideration:

- be aware of the way you address individuals
- be conscious of the hidden messages conveyed by classroom language
- distribute tasks equitably, not by any other particular stereotype
- At all times be conscious of your own attitude
- be open to discussion of equal opportunities issues
- be specifically aware of the negative attitudes of certain visual images e.g. posters
- communicate to students and others involved with the course the RTO's policy regarding discrimination and sexual harassment
- Actively discourage unproductive "battles of the sexes" in class
- promote respect for all students and other staff on the basis of their personal worth.

### **Disability Access Requirements**

Should any person with a physical disability who requires wheel chair access to training facilities register in a Hobart based course, then the course will take place in a venue which has disability access and, in particular, has toilet facilities suitable for a person who is confined to a wheelchair.

## **ACCESS TO RECORDS**

An individual participant has the right of access to his or her personal records only. The request should be submitted in writing to the Training Department of the REIT, which will arrange a suitable time and place for the records to be viewed while accompanied by a Training Department staff member.

Inquiries by phone as to participation in and outcomes of courses may be answered by Training Department staff provided it is directly to the participant.

An employer may have access to records of enrolment, attendance, assessment and outcomes for participants in their employ. These records will be available to the principal of the agency, and, in the case of trainees, the nominated supervisor of the trainee.

Any person having concerns about access by any of these people to their records of enrolment, attendance, assessment and outcomes should contact the Training Manager.

## **OTHER CLIENT SERVICES**

Any client identifying that assistance is needed with any support services, including language, numeracy and literacy problems, welfare and guidance or trainee disciplinary procedures should contact the Training Manager.

## **AUSTRALIA SKILLS QUALITY AUTHORITY**

Current and past students may be required to complete gap training. Gap training may be required if non compliances are identified by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) at audit. Students are required to participate; those students that do not wish to participate it will potentially result in their qualification being deemed invalid. The REIT will continue strive to deliver high quality training and assessments to avoid such an event occurring.

## **GUARANTEE**

The Real Estate Institute of Tasmania undertakes to honour all guarantees made to trainees, all guarantees made as a registered training provider, and all guarantees made as part of the Code of Practice for Training.

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