

Occupational Health and Safety Policy

Policy Statement

Penola Catholic College is committed to the occupational health, safety (OHS) and welfare of all its' employees and students, those contracted to perform work on its behalf and visitors to our premises. The College regards its' OHS responsibilities with the utmost importance and as such, resources are made available to comply with all relevant Acts and Regulations to ensure the workplace is safe and to minimise risk to health.

Principles

All of the College's managers and employees as well as contractors and visitors have a shared responsibility for contributing to the health and safety of all persons. The promotion and maintenance of health and safety issues and the dissemination of OHS related information is primarily the responsibility of management. Management at all levels, in consultation with employees, have the responsibility for developing, implementing and continually reviewing School's OHS Program.

Objectives

This policy provides the framework for:

- The development of safe methods of work
- The achievement of a safe working environment
- The promotion of good health within the work force
- Reducing the number and severity of injuries in the workplace
- Complying with all relevant Acts, Regulations, Standards and Codes of Practice.

Strategies

Risk Management

The College has established a documented OHS Program and a risk management system with procedures for identifying, assessing and controlling workplace hazards. This risk management system has been developed in accordance with the International Risk Management Standard AS/NZ ISO 31000.

Consultation

An OHS Compliance Officer (including Return to Work Coordination) has been appointed to provide an effective consultative mechanism. Employees are able to provide input into the OHS program. Management will consult with contractors and visitors when planning work to determine the most effective means of ensuring both parties fulfill their OHS responsibilities.

Responsibilities

College Board

Each College Board Member is required to ensure that this policy and the OHS program are developed and effectively implemented in areas under their control, and to support supervisors and hold them accountable for their specific responsibilities.

Principal

The Principal is responsible, and will be accountable for, taking all practical measures to ensure that the workplace under their control is safe and without risks to health, and that the behavior of all persons in the workplace is safe and without risks to health.

The Principal will be held accountable for detecting any unsafe or unhealthy conditions or behavior.

If the Principal does not have the necessary authority to fix a problem, they will be held accountable for reporting the matter promptly, together with any recommendations for remedial action to a College Board Member with the necessary authority to effect a remedy.

Employees

All employees are required to cooperate with the OHS Program to ensure their own health and safety and the health and safety of others in the workplace.

All employees will carry out their work according to the safe systems of work and use all plant, materials, tools and substances in the manner for which they are intended.

Volunteers, Contractors, Sub-Contractors and Visitors

All volunteers, visitors, contractors and sub-contractors engaged to perform work on the College's premises are required, to comply with College's OHS Program and to observe directions on health and safety from College staff. Failure to comply or observe a direction will be considered a breach of the contract and sufficient grounds for termination of the contract.

Occupational Health and Safety Program

The College is committed to the effective implementation of its OHS Program and will ensure that it is appropriately reviewed and updated. The program relates to all aspects of OHS including, but not limited to:

- OHS training and education for all employees – general and hazard specific
- Work system and procedure design, workplace design and standard work methods
- Changes to work methods and practice
- Emergency procedures and drills
- Provision of OHS services, equipment and facilities
- Workplace inspections and safety plans
- Reporting and recording of incidents, accidents, injuries and illnesses
- Provision of information to employees, contractors, sub-contractors and visitors.

Related Policies and Procedures

Injury Management and Return-to-Work Program

Human Resources Programs and Training

Recruitment & Selection Procedures

Induction Procedures

Evaluation

The College is committed to the establishment of measurable objectives and targets for OHS to ensure continuous improvement aimed at the minimisation of work related illness and injury.

The effectiveness of the College' OHS and Risk Management Program will be measured by the:

- Effective identification of hazards;
- Effective development and implementation of safety plans; and
- Decrease in lost time due to illness and injury, and a resulting reduction in premiums.

Resource Implications

- Appointment of an OHS Compliance Officer (including Return to Work Coordination)
- Establishment of an OHS Committee
- Provision of First Aid Facilities
- Allocation of time for effective safety training of the workforce
- Regular monitoring and review of the OHS Program

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