

# ACCESS, EQUITY, WELFARE, WELLBEING AND STUDENT SUPPORT POLICY

## POLICY NO: 03

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Yarrowonga Neighbourhood House Inc, trading as Yarrowonga Mulwala Community and Learning Centre (YMCLC) registration code 21765, provides inclusive, equitable, and supportive learning environments that promote student success and wellbeing. This policy outlines the organisation’s commitment to removing barriers, offering tailored support, and fostering a culture of respect and inclusivity for all students.

This policy applies to all students enrolled at YMCLC and covers all services, including access to training, assessment, support services, and welfare provisions. It also applies to personnel, contractors, and third-party providers involved in the delivery of services.

YMCLC is committed to providing equitable access to education and training, ensuring all students have the support they need to achieve their learning goals. The organisation will uphold the principles of access and equity, catering to the diverse needs of its student body and fostering an inclusive and respectful environment.

YMCLC ensures students have reasonable access to training support services, teachers, trainers and assessors and other personnel to support their progress through the training product.

The organisation determines the training support services to be provided to each student and makes these available and informs students about how and when they can access trainers and assessors and other personnel.

YMCLC fosters a learning environment that promotes and supports the diversity students. The organisation fosters a safe and inclusive learning environment for students, including a culturally safe learning environment for First Nations people.

The organisation ensures the wellbeing needs of student cohorts are identified as relevant to the training content, and appropriate wellbeing support services and strategies are put in

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place to support these needs. Students are advised of the actions they can take, the personnel they may contact and the wellbeing support services that are available.

## RATIONALE

YMCLC's approach to access, equity, welfare, wellbeing and student support ensures that all students receive equitable access to education and training, fostering an inclusive, diverse, and supportive learning environment. By proactively addressing barriers that may prevent participation, this strategy ensures that individuals from all backgrounds, including those with disabilities, culturally diverse groups, and individuals facing socio-economic challenges, have the resources and support necessary to succeed. This commitment to inclusivity aligns with best practices in vocational education and training, promoting access, fairness, and tailored assistance for students who require additional support.

The organisation acknowledges that student success is influenced by a range of factors, including wellbeing, academic support, and accessibility to services. The integration of targeted support mechanisms - such as study skills programs, counselling services, and technology support - ensures that students not only enrol but are also provided with structured guidance throughout their learning journey. This approach strengthens student retention, progression, and completion rates, ultimately contributing to a more skilled and capable workforce.

By implementing structured monitoring, evaluation, and feedback mechanisms, the organisation assesses the effectiveness of its student support strategies and makes data-driven enhancements. This commitment to quality assurance ensures that students receive the highest level of educational and wellbeing support, reinforcing the organisation's dedication to fostering a learning environment that is inclusive, respectful, and responsive to diverse student needs.

## DEFINITIONS

### 1. Access and equity

Access and equity mean policies and approaches are aimed at ensuring Vocational Education and Training is responsive to the individual needs of all students including those whose age, gender, cultural or ethnic background, disability, sexuality, language skills, literacy or numeracy level, unemployment, imprisonment or remote location may present a barrier to access, participation and the achievement of suitable outcomes.

Access and Equity principles include:

- The fair and appropriate allocation of resources,
- Equality of opportunity for all people without discrimination,
- Access for all people to appropriate quality training and assessment services.
- Increased opportunity for people to participate in training.

### 2. Disadvantaged groups

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Disadvantaged groups include the following groups who traditionally have been under-represented in Vocational Education and Training:

- People with a disability,
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders,
- Women,
- People from non-English speaking backgrounds,
- People in rural and remote areas, and
- Long term unemployed.

### 3. Inclusive Learning

YMCLC manages a learning environment that promotes and supports the diversity of students. The organisation:

- Fosters a safe and inclusive learning environment for students.
- Fosters a culturally safe learning environment for First Nations people.

YMCLC recognises the need for affirmative measures to support First Nations people to enrol, participate in and complete training and is about:

- Acknowledging the unique experience of First Nations people in Australia,
- Recognising that First Nations peoples do not always have the same level of access to VET as non-Indigenous Australians, nor the same positive experiences, and
- Actively addressing unconscious bias, racism and discrimination, and supporting self-determination for First Nations people.

### 4. Cultural safety

Cultural safety is about creating an environment that is safe for First Nations people. This means there is no challenge or denial of their identity and experience. A culturally safe learning environment has benefits for all students and staff alike. It creates a positive setting where people are respected and feel comfortable being themselves.

The organisation:

- Engages with local First Nations groups and communities to help identify ways they can improve,
- Engages personnel or industry experts from First Nations communities to deliver or review training and assessment,
- Ensures all personnel are culturally competent,
- Reviews learning materials and activities to ensure these are culturally safe and trauma aware.

Inclusive learning is about a fair go for everyone. Everyone has a right to learn, everyone can learn, but many people do not get fair access to learning opportunities.

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**Everyone learns differently**

**Students bring existing knowledge and skills**

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Everyone can learn. Good trainers partner with students to empower them to achieve to their potential. YMCLC trainers ensure students feel connected, supported and valued as individuals and as part of a community of students.

YMCLC trainers ensure teaching and learning activities have contextual application and relevance. Learning is productive, meaningful and engaging, and builds on the student's existing capabilities.

## Five core skills underpin all learning

The skills of oral communication, reading, writing, numeracy and learning need special attention. YMCLC trainers actively recognise the need for students to continually update and build core skills for new contexts and are supported to identify and action student skills gaps.

## Being inclusive is everyone's responsibility

YMCLC trainers use a variety of training methods, encourage respectful interaction, seek feedback from students, collaborate with specialists when they need extra help and continually update their skills.

## 5. Key Inclusive Learning Actions

### Understand Differences in the Student Cohort

YMCLC ensures it understands the vocational aspirations and support needs of students prior to enrolment to ensure they are enrolled in the right level course and have the right mix of supports available to help them succeed. This includes the use of pre-enrolment reviews and guidance to students.

All YMCLC trainers have access to information on student diversity.

### Access Skills and Expertise in Addressing Difference

Introductory inclusive learning skills is embedded in YMCLC personnel induction program and ongoing professional development on inclusive learning is supported.

### Listening to the Student

YMCLC ensures it is collecting the perspectives of students, considering student views in the way courses are organised, and support is provided.

### Help Students Choose an Appropriate Learning Pathway

YMCLC provides students with flexible options, advice and guidance on the best pathway towards their vocational outcome and allows a diverse range of students to access the training.

All Students are provided with information and guidance on course requirements and outcomes prior to enrolment.

### Develop the Core skills of Students

All YMCLC trainers have the basic knowledge they need to identify and respond to foundation skills needs.

## 6. Celebrating Inclusion

YMCLC engages in opportunities to raise awareness, celebrate and engage with diverse communities and promote inclusion by participating in local and national events.

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## 7. Student Support Services

YMCLC ensures students have access to a range of support services during their course program. YMCLC:

- Determines the student's support needs during their enrolment, and
- Determines relevant support services, providing access when needed by the student.

**Training support services** means services and resources to support individual students to meet training product requirements and complete the training product in which they are enrolled.

YMCLC ensures students have access to clear and accurate information, including how to make informed decisions about the training product and the RTO, and are made aware of changes that affect them. This includes training support services and wellbeing support services that are available to students and how to access them. Please refer to the Enrolment policy for further information.

YMCLC reviews prospective students' skills to ensure they have the necessary foundation skills to undertake the intended training. Please refer to the Enrolment policy.

YMCLC ensures students have reasonable access to training support services, trainers and assessors and other staff to support their progress through their course and to address any academic issues. The organisation provides adequate and timely technology support either directly or through an external party. The terms of this service are communicated to students, so they are aware how issues will be handled if they arise.

Please refer to the relevant Training and Assessment Strategy for further information on specific training support services available for each course being delivered.

**Study Support** please refer to YMCLC's Study Tips Guide for detailed study guidance and support. Students are encouraged to raise any queries and support needs at any stage with relevant YMCLC personnel they are working with in their course program.

## 8. Wellbeing Support

**Cultural safety** is about the experience of the individual. It is an outcome based on respectful engagement that recognises and strives to address power imbalances inherent in society. It results in an environment free of racism and discrimination, where people feel safe and able to be themselves when receiving advice and support.

**Mental health** is a state of wellbeing that enables you to deal with what life throws at you. It is about feeling resilient, enjoying life and being able to connect with others. Good mental health helps you:

- Cope with the normal stresses of life,
- Be productive both at work and in your private life,

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- Relate well to other people, and
- Contribute to your community.

A **mental illness** is a disorder diagnosed by a medical professional that significantly interferes with a person's cognitive, emotional or social abilities. Examples include depression, anxiety, schizophrenia and eating disorders. These can all occur with varying degrees of severity.

People may also experience periods of reduced mental health, or mental ill-health during their lives. During these periods they may experience some symptoms of mental illness without receiving a diagnosis. It is important to still seek support in these times.

**Suicide** is defined as death caused by self-directed injurious behaviour with intent to die as result of the behaviour. Suicide is a complex issue, affected by a wide variety of factors. Although mental ill-health is often a contributing factor, not everyone who dies by suicide will have been experiencing mental ill-health.

Suicide deaths have been associated with life stressors, such as social isolation, relationship breakdown and financial hardship. Suicide has an enormous impact on families, friends and communities. It is critical people who are at risk of suicide get the support they need.

The term '**suicidal ideation**' refers to thoughts that life is not worth living, ranging in intensity from fleeting thoughts through to concrete, well thought-out plans for ending one's life, or a complete preoccupation with self-destruction. These thoughts are experienced by many young people at some point in their lives.

**Wellbeing** encompasses the health of the whole person – physical, mental, social and emotional. A person's wellbeing can change moment to moment, day to day, month to month and year to year. It can be influenced by what's happening in a specific moment and the actions that people take. Wellbeing may be preferred terminology when communicating with culturally and linguistically diverse audiences.

**Wellbeing support services** means support services and resources to assist with VET students' physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing.

YMCLC is aware of risks to students' wellbeing and has put strategies in place to protect and uphold the safety and wellbeing of the student cohort. The organisation:

- Identifies the wellbeing needs of the student cohort, as relevant to the training content, and appropriate wellbeing support services.
- Advises the student cohort of the availability of wellbeing support services, and any organisation students can contact, or additional action students can take to support their wellbeing.
- Assists students to access these supports as appropriate (for example, by providing information about, or referring students to, external support services and resources).

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The wellbeing support services required by students will vary based on several factors, including the student cohort, training mode, learning strategies, and course content. Different student groups bring diverse backgrounds, experiences, and challenges that influence the type of support they may require throughout their learning journey.

YMCLC determines the wellbeing support needs by referring to the training product content of specific student target cohorts through a combination of pre-enrolment reviews, student self-disclosures, trainer observations, academic performance tracking, and stakeholder feedback mechanisms such as surveys and focus groups.

Regular consultation with trainers, support personnel, and stakeholders ensures that wellbeing strategies are aligned with student needs. This approach enables the RTO to proactively implement targeted support services, monitor their effectiveness, and continuously refine strategies to enhance student success and retention.

Ensuring that all staff members are informed about the RTO's wellbeing support strategies is essential to providing a proactive and responsive support system. YMCLC personnel receive comprehensive induction and ongoing professional development on student wellbeing initiatives, referral pathways, and the signs that a student may require support. Trainers and assessors play a particularly critical role in identifying when students may be struggling, whether due to academic challenges, attendance issues, disengagement, or personal difficulties. Non-teaching personnel, such as administration and student support teams, must also be aware of available wellbeing services and how to refer students appropriately.

A structured referral process is in place, ensuring personnel know how to escalate concerns to the appropriate internal or external support service. This may include formalised reporting mechanisms, such as case notes or early intervention meetings, to track student support needs effectively.

Please refer to the relevant Training and Assessment Strategy for further information on specific wellbeing support services available for each specific target student cohort and course being delivered.

Key Referral Services Available	Contact Details
Lifeline Provides all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to online, phone and face-to-face crisis support and suicide prevention services. Find out how these services can help you, a friend or loved one.	Phone: 13 11 14 <a href="https://www.lifeline.org.au">https://www.lifeline.org.au</a>
Kids Helpline If you're between 5 and 25 and you're feeling depressed, worried, sad, angry or confused about things like your studies or personal relationships, Kids Helpline offers	Phone: 1800 551 800 <a href="https://kidshelpline.com.au">https://kidshelpline.com.au</a>

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free 24 hour, 7 day telephone counselling support (anonymous if you prefer).	
Drug Info Is a service provided by the Australian Drug Foundation that offers information about alcohol and other drugs and prevention of related harms	Phone: 1300 85 85 84 <a href="https://adf.org.au/resources/druginfo/">https://adf.org.au/resources/druginfo/</a>
Reading and Writing Hotline For the price of a local call anywhere in Australia, the Hotline can provide you with advice and a referral to one of 1200 providers of courses in adult literacy and numeracy.	Phone: 1300 6 555 06 <a href="http://www.readingwritinghotline.edu.au">www.readingwritinghotline.edu.au</a>
Centrelink Payments and services to support you.	Phone: 1800 057 111 <a href="http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/dhs/centrelink">www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/dhs/centrelink</a>

## 9. Providing Student Support

YMCLC embraces the responsibility of ensuring all students are supported in acquiring the knowledge and skills sought through their training and assessment program. YMCLC determines the support needs of individual students prior to enrolment and ensures access is provided to the support services necessary for the individual student to meet the requirements of the training product as specified in training packages or VET accredited courses.

All YMCLC personnel are aware of available internal or external resources or are able to confidently refer students to appropriate tutoring and community support services. YMCLC ensures support provided is reasonable and accessible.

## 10. Support for Students with Individual Needs

YMCLC is committed to complying with Commonwealth and State legislation and policies regarding access, equity and cultural diversity. This legislation includes the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) and the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1998* (Cth).

YMCLC also maintains compliance with the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* (Cth) including processes relating to:

- Enrolment,
- Participation,
- Curriculum development, accreditation and delivery,
- Student support services, and
- Elimination of harassment and victimisation.

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YMCLC strives to maximise opportunities for access, participation and outcomes for all Students within the vocational education, training and employment system.

YMCLC undertakes to identify and, where possible, remove barriers that prevent individuals from accessing and participating in our services. YMCLC is committed to treating all prospective and actual students on the same basis.

## 11. On the Same Basis

A person with a disability is able to seek admission to, or apply for enrolment in, an institution on the same basis as a prospective student without a disability if the person has opportunities and choices in admission or enrolment that are comparable with those offered to other prospective student without disabilities.

YMCLC ensures it treats prospective students with a disability on the same basis as prospective students without a disability as it makes any decisions about admission or enrolment on the basis that reasonable adjustments will be provided.

An adjustment is a measure or action (or a group of measures or actions) taken by YMCLC that has the effect of assisting a student with a disability:

- in relation to an admission or enrolment – to apply for the admission or enrolment,
- in relation to a course or program – to participate in the course or program, and
- in relation to facilities or services – to use the facilities or services.

## 12. Reasonable Adjustments

Reasonable adjustments include any adjustments for a VET student with a disability made by an NVR registered training organisation in a manner consistent with the *Disability Standards for Education 2005* (Cth).

Reasonable adjustment refers to any modification made to the learning environment, training delivery or assessment method to ensure students with disability or ongoing ill health can access and participate in training and assessment. This could include, for example:

- Ensuring that course activities are sufficiently flexible.
- Providing additional support where necessary.
- Customising resources, activities or presentation mediums.
- Offering a reasonable substitute within the context of the course where a student cannot participate.

An adjustment is reasonable in relation to a student with a disability if it balances the interests of all parties affected. In assessing whether a particular adjustment for a student is reasonable, YMCLC has regard to all the relevant circumstances and interests, including the following:

- The student's disability.
- The views of the student or the student's associate.

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- The effect of the adjustment on the student, including the effect on the student's ability to achieve learning outcomes, and ability to participate in courses or programs, and independence.
- The effect of the proposed adjustment on anyone else affected, including YMCLC, personnel and other students.
- The costs and benefits of making the adjustment.

## 13. Student Rights and YMCLC Responsibilities

Students' Rights	YMCLC Responsibilities
<b>Enrolment</b>	
Right to seek admission and enrol on the same basis as prospective students without disability including the right to reasonable adjustments.	<p>Take reasonable steps to ensure that the enrolment process is accessible.</p> <p>Consider students with disability in the same way as students without disability when deciding to offer a place.</p> <p>Consult with the prospective student or their associate about the effect of the disability on their ability to seek enrolment, and any reasonable adjustments necessary.</p>
<b>Participation</b>	
Right to access courses and programs, use services and facilities, and have reasonable adjustments, to ensure students with disability are able to participate in education and training on the same basis as students without disability.	<p>Take reasonable steps to ensure participation.</p> <p>Consult with the student or their associate about the effect of the disability on their ability to participate.</p> <p>Make a reasonable adjustment if necessary. Repeating this process over time as necessary.</p>
<b>Curriculum Development, Accreditation and Delivery</b>	
Right to participate in courses and relevant supplementary programs that are designed to develop their skills, knowledge and understanding, on the same basis as students without disability and to have reasonable adjustments to ensure they are able to participate in education and training.	<p>Enable students with disability to participate in learning experiences (including assessment and certification).</p> <p>Consult with the student or their associate.</p> <p>Take into consideration whether the disability affects the student's ability to participate in the learning experiences.</p>
<b>Student Support Services</b>	

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<p>Right to access student support services provided by education institutions, on the same basis as students without disability. Students with disabilities have the right to specialised services needed to participate in the educational activities they are enrolled in.</p>	<p>Ensure that students with disabilities are able to use general support services.</p> <p>Ensure that students have access to specialised support services.</p> <p>Facilitate the provision of specialised support services.</p>
<p><b>Harassment &amp; Victimization</b></p>	
<p>Right to education and training in an environment that is free from discrimination caused by harassment and victimization on the basis of their disability.</p>	<p>Implement strategies to prevent harassment or victimization.</p> <p>Take reasonable steps to ensure that personnel and students are informed about their obligation not to harass or victimise students with disability.</p> <p>Take appropriate action if harassment or victimization occurs.</p> <p>Ensure complaint mechanisms are available to Students.</p>

## 14. Process for Considering Adjustments

YMCLC provides equitable access to all required training support services, so that no student is disadvantaged regardless of their mode of study or location. Where there may be limitations regarding access to these resources, YMCLC provides clear advice in pre-enrolment information so all clients can make an informed choice about which RTO and course of study best meets their needs.

YMCLC embraces the responsibility of ensuring that all personnel acquire the knowledge and skills to relate to students without direct or indirect discrimination. All personnel are aware of and know how to use available YMCLC or external resources or be able to confidently refer students to appropriate tutoring and community support services.

All personnel continue to expand their knowledge or access and equity issues through induction processes when joining YMCLC, and in structured professional development on a regular basis (at least annually) in access and equity issues and resources.

YMCLC personnel have access to a range of access and equity materials designed to assist students in undertaking and completing courses and qualifications.

In assessing whether an adjustment to the course or program in which the student is enrolled, or proposes to be enrolled, is reasonable, YMCLC is entitled to maintain the academic requirements of the course or program, and other requirements or components that are inherent in or essential to its nature.

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## **a) Consulting the Student**

Before YMCLC makes an adjustment for the student, the student or their associate is consulted about:

- Whether the adjustment is reasonable, and
- The extent to which the adjustment would achieve the aims in relation to the student, and
- Whether there is any other reasonable adjustment that would be less disruptive and intrusive and no less beneficial for the student.

## **b) Deciding on an Adjustment to be Made**

In deciding whether to make a particular reasonable adjustment for a student, YMCLC:

- Assesses whether there is any other reasonable adjustment that would be less disruptive and intrusive and no less beneficial for the student, and
- Assesses whether the adjustment may need to be changed over the period of a student's education or training.

A detailed assessment, which might include an independent expert assessment, may be required in order to determine what adjustments are necessary for a student. The type and extent of the adjustments may vary depending on the individual requirements of the student and other relevant circumstances. Multiple adjustments may be required and may include multiple activities.

## **c) Assessing Reasonable Adjustments**

In assessing whether a particular adjustment is reasonable for a student with a disability, YMCLC takes into account:

- The nature of the student's disability,
- The information provided by, or on behalf of, the student about how the disability affects the student's ability to participate,
- Views of the student, or an associate of the student, about whether a proposed adjustment is reasonable and will enable the student with a disability to access and participate in education and training opportunities on the same basis as students without disabilities,
- Information provided by, or on behalf of, the student about his or her preferred adjustments,
- The effect of the proposed adjustment on the student, including the student's ability to participate in courses or programmes and achieve learning outcomes,
- The effect of the proposed adjustment on anyone else affected, including YMCLC operations, personnel and other students, and
- The costs and benefits of making the adjustment.

In making a reasonable adjustment, YMCLC ensures that the integrity of the course or program and assessment requirements and processes are maintained.

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YMCLC acts upon information about an adjustment in a timely way that optimises the student's participation in education or training.

In meeting its obligations to provide reasonable adjustments, YMCLC may provide an alternative adjustment to the student's preferred form of adjustment, if the alternative is effective in achieving the desired purpose.

## **d) Unjustifiable Hardship**

Once a reasonable adjustment has been determined, YMCLC may consider if the adjustment would impose unjustifiable hardship on its operations.

In determining what constitutes unjustifiable hardship, all relevant circumstances of the particular case are taken into account including:

- The nature of the benefit or detriment likely to accrue or be suffered by any persons concerned, and
- The effect of the disability on a person concerned, and
- The financial circumstances and the estimated amount of expenditure required to be made by the person claiming unjustifiable hardship.

In determining whether unjustifiable hardship applies, YMCLC:

- Takes into account information about the nature of the student's disability, his or her preferred adjustment, any adjustments that have been provided previously and any recommended or alternative adjustments. This information may be provided by the student, an associate of the student or independent experts (or a combination of those persons),
- Ensures that timely information is available to the student, or an associate of the student, about the processes for determining whether the proposed adjustment would cause unjustifiable hardship, and
- Ensures that these processes maintain the dignity, respect, privacy and confidentiality of the student and the associates of the student, consistent with the rights of the rest of the community.

Where a claim of unjustifiable hardship is made, YMCLC has taken into account all the financial and other resources that are reasonably available for the purpose of making any necessary adjustments for the student, and the impact of those adjustments on its capacity to provide quality education to all students while remaining financially viable.

YMCLC considers all costs and benefits both direct and indirect that are likely to impact the student and any associates of the student, and any other persons in the learning or wider community, including:

- Costs associated with additional personnel, the provision of special resources or modification of the curriculum,

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- Costs resulting from the student's participation in the learning environment, including any adverse impact on learning and social outcomes for the student, other students and trainers, and
- Benefits deriving from the student's participation in the learning environment, including positive learning and social outcomes for the student, other students and trainers, and any financial incentives, such as subsidies or grants, available to YMCLC as a result of the student's participation.

Where YMCLC decides to rely on unjustifiable hardship, it ensures that a notice stating the decision and the reason for the decision is given to the student, or an associate of the student, as soon as practicable after the decision is made.

## e) Implementing Reasonable Adjustments

YMCLC takes reasonable steps to ensure that any adjustment required to be made is made within a reasonable time. Whether the time is reasonable depends, in particular, on whether and when the student, or his or her associate, has provided:

- In a timely way, any relevant information in the possession of the student or associate about how the disability affects the student in relation to education or training, and the student's or the associate's opinion about the matters.
- Where reasonable adjustments are implemented, a detailed training plan (or specific access plan in some situations) including timetables, notes regarding the required adjustments, and any related communications regarding the adjustments is maintained in the student's file.

Reasonable Adjustments	
Students have difficulty with	Example reasonable adjustments
Concentration	Breaking the assessment into appropriate components that can be undertaken separately, Providing rest breaks during lengthy assessment sessions, Providing a separate assessment venue if the student is distracted by others' movements or noise, Providing additional time, Providing alternative assessment methods, such as recording devices for oral testing, or telephone assessments, and Allowing the student to provide evidence of having completed the assessment task at another venue, for example, an employer could verify satisfactory demonstration of competence.
Expressing knowledge in writing	Allowing oral assessment, Providing a digital recorder or scribe, Providing a sign language interpreter, and Providing additional time.

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Spelling and/or grammar	<p>Allowing oral assessment,          Providing a digital recorder or scribe,          Providing a sign language interpreter,          Providing additional time,          Providing a computer with a generic spelling and grammar checker, dictionary and thesaurus (such as those included in Microsoft® Word) or specialised literacy software (such as Spell Master or Read and Write Gold),          Providing models and practical examples for the student to demonstrate what they mean, and          Providing alternative assessment methods, such as recorded interviews, slide presentations, photographic essays or models.</p>
Numbers and numerical concepts	<p>Allowing additional time,          Allowing the student to use a calculator, and          Providing other assistive technology, such as a talking calculator.</p>
Maintaining writing posture for any length of time, or writing quickly	<p>Providing a digital recorder or similar,          Allowing oral assessment,          Providing a personal computer (if using a keyboard is more comfortable than writing),          Allowing rest breaks,          Providing a scribe,          Providing other assistive technology or equipment, and          Allowing additional time.</p>
Reading standard-sized print or handwriting	<p>Providing technology such as magnifying devices to enlarge print, or screen readers,          Providing specialised writing pens,          Providing oral assessments or recorded questions,          Providing a reader,          Allowing additional time,          Providing models, graphics or practical examples to illustrate questions, and          Providing heavily lined paper.          Providing enlarged printed material.</p>
Physical tasks	<p>Allowing alternative methods of competence demonstration, such as oral assessment or third-party evidence,          Providing assistive technology or equipment, and          Allowing additional time.</p>
Certain physical environments	<p>Providing appropriate lighting and eliminating glare (for students with low vision or epilepsy),          Providing suitable furniture,          Providing adequate space for equipment and support personnel,          Providing access to PowerPoints for equipment, and          Using a separate venue to eliminate distractions by others (and by others using equipment/support personnel).</p>

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## 15. Student Code of Conduct

The code of conduct establishes the behavioural expectations for all students at YMCLC. It promotes a respectful, professional, and safe learning environment while ensuring compliance with academic and industry standards.

This code of conduct applies to all YMCLC students across all modes of study (face-to-face, online, workplace-based). It governs behaviour during training, assessments, work placements, and interactions with YMCLC personnel, trainers, assessors, fellow students, and external stakeholders.

## 16. Student Responsibilities

### General Behaviour and Respect

Students are expected to:

- Treat fellow students and YMCLC personnel with respect, fairness, and courtesy.
- Follow any reasonable direction given by YMCLC personnel, including trainers and assessors.
- Engage in training sessions professionally, avoiding disruptive behaviour.
- Use appropriate language and refrain from excessive or offensive swearing.
- Respect the rights, opinions, and privacy of others.
- Maintain a cooperative and inclusive learning environment.

### Academic Integrity

Students must:

- Complete assessments honestly, demonstrating their own knowledge and skills.
- Refrain from plagiarism, collusion, or cheating in any assessment activity.
- Follow all academic integrity guidelines, including referencing sources appropriately.
- Submit assessments by the due date or seek approval for an extension.
- Acknowledge and follow YMCLC's policies regarding the ethical use of Generative AI tools.

### Attendance and Participation

Students are required to:

- Be punctual and attend all scheduled training sessions and assessments.
- Participate actively in all learning activities.
- Refrain from using mobile phones during workshops and training sessions unless approved by the trainer for learning purposes.
- Notify YMCLC if unable to attend due to illness or other valid reasons.

### Work Health & Safety (WHS) Responsibilities

Students must:

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- Observe all normal safety practices, including wearing approved clothing and protective equipment where required.
- Follow all WHS policies and procedures.
- Avoid behaviours that may endanger themselves or others.
- Report any hazards, injuries, or unsafe practices to YMCLC personnel immediately.
- Refrain from smoking in YMCLC buildings and designated non-smoking areas.

## **Use of YMCLC Property and Resources**

Students are expected to:

- Treat all YMCLC facilities, materials, and equipment with care.
- Return YMCLC equipment and materials on time.
- Avoid damaging, stealing, modifying, or misusing any property, including electronic records.
- Follow ICT policies when using YMCLC digital platforms and resources.

## **Work Placement and Industry Engagement**

For students undertaking work placements, they must:

- Adhere to the workplace policies and procedures of the host organisation.
- Represent YMCLC professionally in all work placement activities.
- Follow all industry-specific WHS requirements and wear appropriate safety attire.
- Respect workplace confidentiality and employer expectations.

## **Behavioural Misconduct**

YMCLC students must not:

- Harass, bully, intimidate, or discriminate against fellow students or YMCLC personnel.
- Engage in any behaviour that offends, embarrasses, or threatens others.
- Be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while engaged in learning activities.
- Engage in unlawful or unethical behaviour that could damage the reputation of YMCLC.

## **17. Student Support and Complaints Process**

YMCLC is committed to supporting students through:

- Learning support and academic guidance.
- WHS and student wellbeing resources.
- Clear procedures for raising complaints and appeals, outlined in the YMCLC Complaints and Appeals Policy.

## **18. Discipline**

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YMCLC is committed to the principle of ensuring that every student has the right to participate in training programs, free of inappropriate behaviour that may impair the learning processes, or the wellbeing of individuals.

## 19. Breaches and Misconduct

Breach of discipline means any conduct that impairs the reasonable freedom of other persons to pursue their learning or work or is in breach of the YMCLC's expectations.

A student commits a breach of discipline if she/he:

- Assaults a person on the premises of the YMCLC training site or nominated facility,
- Unlawfully removes, damages or uses any property of another person or the YMCLC,
- Obstructs personnel of YMCLC in the performance of their duties,
- Obstructs the teaching training of a group or an assessment activity,
- Commits or engages in any dishonest or unfair act in relation to an assessment activity, such as plagiarism or cheating,
- Wilfully disobeys or disregards any lawful order or direction given by a member of personnel,
- Enters part of the YMCLC 's premises when directed not to do so by a member of personnel,
- Fails to leave part of the YMCLC 's premises when directed to do so by a member of personnel,
- Fails to return YMCLC property or pay replacement costs when instructed to do so,
- Fails to pay financial commitments to YMCLC,
- Enters part of the YMCLC's premises whilst under the influence of alcohol or a drug,
- Engages in any unlawful activity on the YMCLC 's premises such as using, possessing or supplying any prohibited drug, substance or weapon,
- Discriminates against a person on the grounds of the person's age, race, sex, sexuality, gender, marital status, physical or intellectual disability, background or religion,
- Incites hatred towards, serious contempt for, or severe ridicule of, a person or group of persons on the grounds of the person's age, race, sex, homosexuality, transgender, marital status, physical or intellectual disability or religion of the person or members of the group, or
- Commits any other act which could reasonably be considered to be in breach of YMCLC expectations.

## 20. Addressing Breaches

YMCLC personnel and students have an interest and a responsibility to prevent minor behavioural problems from becoming larger ones. Any individual who believes that a breach of discipline has occurred should report the breach of discipline to YMCLC without delay.

- a) All cases of breach of discipline committed by an YMCLC representative must be reported to the *Chief Executive Officer*.
- b) In the case of a student breach, the breach must be reported to YMCLC's EO in writing with the following information:

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- Student name and program,
  - Description of the breach of discipline,
  - Damage or inconvenience caused by the breach,
  - Level of cooperation given by the student,
  - Witnesses to the breach, and
  - Evidence available to support the claim of a breach.
- c) If appropriate, the student can be ordered off the YMCLC's premises for the remainder of the day on which the breach takes place. Circumstances where it may be appropriate to exclude the student from the YMCLC's premises include serious cases of breach of discipline such as violence, abusive behaviour, discrimination, vandalism or wilful disobedience of a personnel direction.
- d) In situations of greater urgency, such as cheating or violence, an oral report may be made to YMCLC's TM in the first instance, followed by the written report as soon as practicable thereafter.
- e) Within two working days of the report, the TM will speak to the student concerned, in the presence of the relevant member of personnel if possible and if not then in the presence of a Third-party chosen by the EO.

The student may also have a representative present to act as a witness to the discussion. Where appropriate, the students are cautioned and advised of the possible consequences and the grounds for such report. Confidentiality of all meetings is maintained.

- f) YMCLC's EO in consultation with the TM, may apply any of the following penalties where satisfied a breach of discipline has been committed and the penalty matches the seriousness of the breach:
- A verbal or written reprimand,
  - A requirement to attend counselling at a specified time and place,
  - Payment of compensation by student for damages or loss of resources,
  - Restitution of property removed or damaged,
  - Use of specified equipment only in accordance with certain conditions (for a set period),
  - Termination of enrolment, or
  - Exclusion from YMCLC.

Attempts are to be made to solve behavioural problems of students through discussion and mediation before the provision of more formal procedures is invoked. At all stages students are provided the opportunity to express their concerns before any decisions are made. All decisions are reviewable using YMCLC's *Appeals* arrangements.

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Any penalty imposed is communicated to the student in writing within five days of the meeting. The student is also advised of the right to appeal the penalty under YMCLC *Appeals* arrangements.

## 21. Monitoring and Evaluation

YMCLC monitors and evaluates student support processes to ensure performance is effective and outcomes are met.

A process of performance monitoring, evaluation, and reporting has been established and implemented.

The organisation continually improves the effectiveness and efficiency of processes. Process performance and outcomes are regularly audited to identify and remove causes of existing and potential problems, as well as to uncover any opportunities for improvement.

Please refer to the Quality Policy for further information on the monitoring and evaluation process.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

Pre-Enrolment Interview  
Study Tips Guide  
Training and Assessment Strategy  
VET Personnel Induction Record

## RELATED LEGISLATION

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)  
Anti-Discrimination Act 1998 (Cth)  
Disability Standards for Education 2005 (Cth)

## RELATED POLICIES

Complaints and appeals  
Enrolment  
Quality

## RELATED STANDARDS

RTO Standards 2025 Quality Area 2, 2.1 to 2.8

## APPROVAL AND REVIEW DETAILS

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Approval and Review	Details
Approval Authority	Executive Officer
Advisory Board to Approval Authority	Board of Management
Author	Executive Officer
Next Review Date	

Approval and Amendment History	
Original Approval Authority and Date	01/11/2021 – new policy written based on feedback from External Auditor.
Amendment Authority and Date	10/12/2024 – V1.1 reviewed and updated. 26/05/2025 V2 Board of Management review and update to RTO Standards 2025 rename policy from Access and Equity.
Notes	

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