

ABUSE, NEGLECT AND EXPLOITATION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Project Independence (PI) is committed to promoting and protecting the interests and safety of vulnerable people. We have zero tolerance for the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable people (abuse).

Everyone working at or visiting PI is responsible for the care and protection of vulnerable people and reporting information about harm from abuse.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is:

1. To facilitate the prevention of harm from abuse occurring within PI.
2. To work towards an organisational culture of safety where people feel protected from all forms of abuse.
3. To ensure that all parties are aware of their responsibilities for identifying possible occasions for abuse and for establishing controls and procedures for preventing such abuse and/or detecting such abuse when it occurs.
4. To provide guidance to staff/volunteers/carers/contractors as to action that should be taken where they suspect any abuse within or outside of the organisation.
5. To provide a clear statement to staff/volunteers/carers/contractors forbidding any such abuse.
6. To provide assurance that any and all suspected abuse will be reported and fully investigated.

POLICY

PI is committed to promoting and protecting the best interests of vulnerable people living in our community or attending our programs.

All people, regardless of their gender, race, religious beliefs, age, disability, sexual orientation, or family or social background, have equal rights to protection from abuse.

PI has zero tolerance for abuse. Everyone working at or visiting PI is responsible for the care and protection of the vulnerable people within our care and reporting information about suspected abuse.

Protection of vulnerable people is a shared responsibility between all staff, volunteers, carers, contractors, associates, and members of the PI community.

PI will consider the opinions of vulnerable people and use their opinions to develop the abuse, neglect and exploitation policy.

PI supports and respects all people, staff and volunteers. PI is committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal people, and those from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for vulnerable people living with a disability.

If any person believes a vulnerable person is in immediate risk of abuse, they must telephone 000.

AUTHORISATION

PI Chair, Mr Glenn Keys, OAM