

Critical Incident and Mandatory Reporting Policy and Procedure

1. Rationale

Under Standard 6.4 of the National Code the registered provider must have a documented critical incident policy together with procedures that cover the action to be taken in the event of a critical incident, required follow-up to the incident, and records of the incident and actions taken.

Ozford English Language Centre (Ozford) recognises that planning for the management of a critical incident is essential to enable Ozford and its staff to meet the duty of care owed to its students.

All students at Ozford have the right to feel safe and to be safe. Staff members have a legal and moral responsibility to report and respond to critical incidences involving the students with whom they have contact with.

Ozford recognises that appropriate infrastructure must be in place to ensure that all necessary support services are provided in the event of a critical incident. This document outlines Ozford policy, support mechanisms and procedures for managing a critical incident.

2. Scope

This policy and procedure applies to all Ozford staff and students.

3. Policy

- 5.1 The Principal supported by the Executive Management Team has responsibility for the actions to be taken in the event of a critical incident and any follow up required. Only the Principal may speak to the media on behalf of Ozford.
- 5.2 This policy ensures that Ozford has:
 - An effective approach in responding to critical incidents as they occur
 - Appropriate support and counselling services available to those affected
 - Appropriate training and information resources provided to staff
- 5.3 All staff and students have the right to feel safe and to be safe. Staff members have a legal and moral responsibility to report and respond to critical incidents involving the students with whom they have contact with.
- 5.4 Ozford will provide information to students and staff about how to seek assistance for and report an incident that significantly impacts on students' wellbeing, including critical incidents.
- 5.5 Staff will be made aware of the Critical Incident Policy and Procedure and be given appropriate induction, to understand the relevant procedures to use in managing a critical incident.
- 5.6 Ozfordege recognises that appropriate infrastructure must be in place to ensure that all necessary support services are provided and follow up actions implemented in the event of a critical incident.



- **5.7** Ozford is committed to providing a prompt and appropriate response to critical incidents.
- 5.8 Ozford keeps written records of critical incidents and remedial actions taken. The records are maintained electronically in the Compass Student Management system. The records are maintained for a minimum of two years after the international student enrolment ceases.
- 5.9 As a follow-up action, the EMT develops a Critical Incident Action Evaluation Plan to review the management and response of the critical incident to address the underlying causes and various aspects arising from the incident including:
 - evaluating and reviewing the plan;
 - creating and disseminating a revised plan and its procedures for future incidents;
 - updating and publishing relevant policy and procedures; and
 - organising appropriate staff development and training.

4. Definitions

A critical incident is defined by the National Code as 'a traumatic event, or the threat of such (within or outside Australia), which causes extreme stress, fear or injury'.

Critical incidents are not limited to, but could include:

- missing students
- severe verbal, written or psychological aggression
- child abuse
- medical emergencies including anaphylaxis, a severe, rapidly progressive allergic reaction that is potentially life threatening
- death, serious injury or any threat of these
- pandemic such as the COVID19 pandemic
- natural disaster such as a extreme weather events such as storms, floods and bush fires.
- domestic violence, physical, sexual or other abuse
- data or privacy breach
- an event in the student's home country that could be traumatic for the student
- severe anxiety, physical or psychological harm;
- requires police notification or involves matters of serious conduct;
- is a WorkSafe notifiable incident; or
- other events that affect the wellbeing of students or the school community

Non-life threatening events can be classed as critical incidents.

Page **3** of **19**

5. Procedure

- 5.1 Ozford will provide students with or refer them to (including electronically) general information on safety and awareness relevant to life in Australia during orientation. Students are provided with information on what to do and who to contact in an emergency. The Emergency Contact details are made available on the Student Handbook.
- 5.2 What to do in the event of critical incidents is part of each Orientation process that students must attend. Students are advised where they can access the Critical Incident Policy and Procedure.
- 5.3 If the incident is determined as an emergency incident, the first action will be to contact the emergency services fire, ambulance or police as would be the case with other occupational health and safety matters. All staff members are required to report any critical incident to ELICOS Coordinator as soon as practicable first verbally, and followed up with a "Critical Incident Report".
- 5.4 Staff and students are informed that any critical incident must be reported to the Principal or International Student Coordinator in the first instance.
- 5.5 The Principal or International Student Coordinator will complete an initial critical Incident report that includes: the time, location and a description and nature of incident, the names of students/staff involved, together with any relevant information that may be of assistance.
- After receiving the incident report, the Principal or International Student Coordinator will call a meeting of the Executive Management Team (EMT).

Planning the response

- 5.7 The EMT will meet to discuss the incident, plan and determine a prompt and appropriate response and action plan by:
 - Developing a clear understanding of the known facts.
 - Assessing risks and response actions
 - Planning an immediate response of the incident
 - Appointing a delegate to deal with public enquiries if the Principal is not available.
 If required, a media management procedure may be included in the management plan to ensure the most positive and supportive response to the media.
- 5.8 If the incident involves child abuse, the Child safety policies and procedures will be applied.

If the incident involves a younger student under CAAW responsibility

- 5.9 Where a student under 18 years of age is missing from their approved accommodation and cannot be contacted, Ozford will implement its Critical Incident Policy and inform the student's parents and place a missing person report with police if requested by the parents.
- 5.10 Homestay hosts who host students under 18 years of age are required to inform Ozford that a student is not able to come to class that day or has been missing overnight.

Page 4 of 19

5.10 Ozford will:

- make all reasonable efforts to locate the student.
- if the student cannot be located, immediately:
 - notify Victoria Police.
 - the student's parents or legal guardians.
- if the student is an overseas student, the Principal will notify the Commonwealth via PRISMS as soon as practicable.
- if the incident results in the student not being able to continue to reside at their current homestay, immediately support the student to transfer to an alternative homestay host (or emergency homestay if necessary) so as to not allow any gap in the student's welfare arrangements. Ozford will notify the student's parents/legal guardians of the change.
- if Ozford is no longer able to approve the welfare arrangements of a student, as the student will not reside at approved homestay accommodation, make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the student's parents or legal guardians are notified immediately.
- advise Immigration via PRISMs:
 - as soon as practicable if the student will be cared for by a parent or nominated relative approved by Immigration and a Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) is no longer required
 - within 24 hours if the College is no longer able to approve the student's welfare arrangements

Determining action plan and providing information to those affected by the incident

- 5.11 The EMT will determine the action plan and allocating individual roles/responsibilities for ongoing tasks by devising a tasks schedule such as:
 - Liaison with emergency and other services
 - Liaison with students' next of kin/family members and other contacts such as agents
 - Liaison with other external bodies, such as accommodation providers or foreign embassies.
 - Assessing the psychological/emotional needs of those affected Identify students and staff most closely involved and most at risk and, assess their needs, determine the nature and degree of support needed.
 - Confirm access to emergency funds if necessary.
 - Provide appropriate support to the student and family, for eg: arrangement for visits to hospital, arrangement for visit from/to family, hiring interpreters for overseas family, assist family to make contact with relevant departments for insurance/legal arrangements
 - In the event that the incident involves a death of a student, additional support to the family will include:
 - o assisting with overseas family to obtain a visa to come to Australia
 - o making arrangements for funeral/memorial service/repatriation
 - o obtaining a death certificate
 - assisting with personal items and affairs including insurance issues
 - Provide appropriate support to other students. At a minimum, opportunities are
 provided for those involved to express and share with others the reactions that
 they had to the incident. Those in charge and those providing support also need
 extra consideration during this time.

- Formal stress management interventions required for students and/or staff (release from classes, leave, rescheduled assessment or exams)
- Counselling and managing students and staff not directly involved in the incident.
 Arrange a time and place for an initial group/individual debriefing session with
 Counsellor/s. In this session, an opportunity is given to share the impact of the
 event, discuss various interpretations of the event in cultural/ethnic terms, the
 resulting sense of vulnerability, the experience of painful emotions and the
 normalisation of reactions
- Arrangements for further debriefing sessions for groups/individuals as required.
- Determine and plan for ongoing feedback and regular meetings so that the EMT is continually in touch and working together.
- 5.12 The EMT will organise for reporting and recording of incident and actions taken. If the incident affects student's enrolment, the Ozford (General) Refusal, deferral, suspension and cancellation of enrolment Policy and Procedure will be applied.
- 5.13 In the case of a student's death or other absence affecting the student's attendance, the incident will be reported via the Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS). Key details reported will include the time, location and nature of the incident (e.g. threat, accident, death or injury), names and roles of persons involved (e.g. staff, students or other persons).
- 5.14 The EMT will provide information and facilitate appropriate venues for its dissemination. A written bulletin will be provided if the matter is complex. Students and academic staff have a need to accept the reality of the event, and the inevitable discussions that follow are better based on fact rather than on rumour or supposition. It is important that rumours are discounted.
- 5.15 **Resuming normal routines as soon as possible** Once the event has been formally acknowledged perhaps through meetings, a memorial service, or whatever is appropriate the next step may well be to resume, as far as practicable, normal routines, so that any ongoing recovery strategies can take place against a background of predictability.
- 5.16 **Follow-up and evaluation** as a follow-up action, the EMT will set in motion a Critical Incident Action Evaluation Plan to review the management and response of the critical incident to address the underlying causes and various aspects arising from the incident by:
 - evaluating and reviewing the plan;
 - creating and disseminating a revised plan and its procedures for future incidents;
 - updating and publishing relevant policy and procedures; and
 - organising appropriate staff development and training.
- 5.17 Changes to the Emergency management plan and the Critical Incident Policy and Procedure, including updated resources, will be made as soon as practicable following the review and evaluation.
- 5.18 At the conclusion of the incident management, all aspects of the incident and its management will be recorded on the student files and Critical Incident File in the form of a file note.



FEEDBACK 2.

Feedback and comments on this policy and procedure is welcomed by the listed responsible



Appendix 1: Checklist for Staff Managing Critical Incidents

	The Academic Director will seek information about the incident and will request that the information is not immediately made public.
	The Academic Director or delegate will urgently deal with an emergency matter then call a meeting with the Critical Incident Team:
comm	As soon as possible, the Academic Director will liaise with relevant staff to prepare a unication plan.
□ develo	Response and ongoing strategies including individual roles and responsibilities ped
	Liaison with police, doctors, hospital staff and other relevant professionals carried out
	Department of Education and Training/Department of Home Affairs notified
	Legal assistance arranged if required
	Follow-up letters to family sent
□ incider	Incident report for Ozford records prepared and placed on student file and critical nt file
	Next of kin (parents/guardian) contacted and support provided to family and friends
	Arrangements made for visits from family and friends, e.g. accommodation, travel, crisis support and referral to appropriate services



Appendix 2: Checklist for Review and Evaluation of Critical Incident Management

How well were the following actions undertaken by the Critical Incident Management Team?

1 = poorly; 5 = very well, most appropriately. Please add comments to clarify your choice.

Question			
Decision making process clear			
Follow up required clear			
Availability of mobile phones			
Notification of and liaison with			
sponsor/agent if applicable			
Arrangements for visits to/from family			
Liaison with police, doctors, hospital staff			
Hiring interpreters			
Death notices			
Funeral/memorial service arrangements			
Refund of student's fees to pay repatriation			
or associated expenses			
Copy of death certificate			
Consideration of personal items and affairs			
(household and academic)			
Insurance matters, OHSC coverage,			
ambulance fees			
Formal stress management interventions			
required for students and/or staff (release			
from classes, leave, rescheduled			
assessment or exams)			
Liaison with academic staff			
Arrangements for further debriefing			
sessions for groups/individuals as required			
Liaison with Department of Immigration			
and Border Protection if studies will be			
interrupted			
Fees issue to be resolved for student			
unable to continue with their studies			
Legal issues: helping students get access			
to legal assistance if required.			
Arrangements for further debriefing			
sessions for groups/individuals as required			
Follow up condolence or other letters to			
family			
Financial assistance for families of affected			
person(s) if residing in Australia			
Organising students/staff for hospital visits			
Sigamoning stadome, stam for mospital violes	<u> </u>	I	

Appendix 3: Critical Incident Recovery Timeline

Page **9** of **19**

In order to successfully manage a critical incident, Ozford will always take appropriate action and provide support during and after a critical incident. The recovery timeline following a critical incident will vary depending on the circumstances:

Immediately (and within 24 hours)

- Gather the facts
- Ensure safety and welfare of staff and students and arrange for first-aid if necessary
- Where possible notify the time and place of the debriefing to all relevant persons
- Manage the media
- Set up a recovery room
- Keep staff, students and parents informed.

Within 48-72 hours

- Arrange counselling as needed
- Provide opportunities for staff and students to talk about the incident
- Provide support to staff and helpers
- Debrief all relevant people
- Restore normal functioning as soon as possible
- Keep parents informed.

Within the first month

- Arrange a memorial service, if appropriate
- Encourage parents to participate in meeting to discuss students' welfare
- Identify behavioural changes and the possibility of post-traumatic stress disorder and refer to Appendix 4 for mental health services
- Monitor progress of hospitalised staff or students
- Monitor mental and physical health of all helpers.

In the Longer Term

- Monitor staff and students for signs of delayed stress and the onset of post-traumatic stress disorder - refer for specialised treatment
- Provide support if needed.

In the Long Term

- Plan for and be sensitive to anniversaries, inquests and legal proceedings
- Access specialist support if needed.

Page **10** of **19**

Appendix 4 - Crisis and Assistance Services

Alcohol & Drug Information:

Directline1800 888 236 Family Drug Help 1300 368 186

Australian Funeral Directors Association

Advice Line: (03) 9859 9966

Australian Search And Rescue

Maritime & Aviation Rescue-Services: 1800 641 792

Maritime Safety Authority: 1800 815 257

Coast Guard Search & Rescue

Emergency Phone: (03) 9598 7003 (24 Hours)

Centre Against Sexual Assault

Sexual Assault Crisis Line: 1800 806 292

Community Legal Centres

Coburg/Brunswick Community Legal & Financial Counselling Centre 78 Bell Street, Coburg (03) 9350 4555

Footscray Community Legal Centre Level 1, 72 Buckley Street, Footscray (03) 9689 8444 Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre 22 Bellair Street, Kensington (03) 9376 4355

Broadmeadows Community Legal Service Shop 214, Gladstone Park Shopping Centre (03) 9310 4376

Fitzroy Legal Service 124 Johnston Street, Fitzroy Fitzroy (03) 9419 3744

Darebin Community Legal Centre 732 High Street, Thornbury VIC 3071 (03) 9484 7753 Monash Oakleigh Legal Service 60 Beddoe Avenue, Clayton North (03) 9905 4336 YouthLaw - At Frontyard 19 King Street, Melbourne (03) 9611 2412 Tenants Union of Victoria PO Box 234, Fitzroy VIC 3065 (03) 9416 2577

Coroner's Office 1300 309 519

Court Network (information, support & referral services for people attending court) (03) 8306 6966

Eating Disorders Foundation of Victoria

Ph: 1300 550 236

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Victoria

(counselling, information and referral

Ph: 1800 184 527

Maternal And Child Health Line 132 229

Mensline Australia 1300 78 99 78

Mens' Referral Service (for men concerned about anger or violence) 1300 766 391

Mental Illness Fellowship Victoria (helpline) 8486 4222

National Association of People Living with Aids Australia 1800 259 666

Nurse-On-Call (24 hour health advice and information from a registered nurse) 1300 606 024

Poisons Information Centre 131 126

Quit Line (stopping smoking) 137 848

Road Trauma Support Team

(Confidential service for people affected by road trauma) 1300 367 797

Safe Steps 24/7 Family Violence Response Line

1800 015 188

SANE Mental Illness Helpline 1800 187 263

Suicide Helpline Victoria (24/7 crisis intervention, support & information) 1300 651 251

Teen Challenge Careline (Youth suicide prevention) 1300 889 288

Translating and Interpreting Service 131 450

Safe steps Family Violence Response Centre 1800 015 188

Appendix 5: Sample Letters

Letter to Parents (Sample letter in the event of a death or injury of injury)

Dear Parents.

Ozford English Language Centre has experienced (the sudden death, accidental injury) of one of our students. We are deeply saddened by the death/events.

(Brief details of the incident, and in the event of a death, perhaps some positive remembrances of the person lost,

We have support structures in place to help your child cope with this tragedy. (Elaborate)

It is possible that your child may have some feelings that he/she may like to discuss with you.

You can help your child by taking time to listen and encouraging them to express their feelings.

If you would like advice or assistance you may contact the following people at Ozford:

ELICOS Coordinator – (name and contact details)
Head of Student Services - (name and contact details)
Student Welfare Officer - (name and contact details)

Yours sincerely,

ELICOS Coordinator



Letter to Parents of Under-18 student (Sample letter requesting consent for involvement of outside professional/s)

Dear Parents,

Following the recent (critical incident) we have arranged professional support for students who need particular help. (Name) is available to help us with this work. This support will usually consist of talking to children, either in small groups or on a one-to-one basis and offering reassurance and advice as appropriate.

Your child has been identified as one of the students who would benefit from meeting with the psychologist. If you would like your child to receive this support please sign the attached permission slip and return it by (date).

slip or



Appendix 6: Police Involvement and Coronial Investigations

While critical incidents are not only cases of sudden unexpected death, the police are required to investigate all cases of sudden unexpected death. Police actions include:

- Reporting such a death to the Coroner
- Notifying next of kin
- Obtaining official identification of the deceased (this must be done by someone who has known the deceased for some time)
- Conducting investigations on behalf of the Coroner for example, interviewing witnesses and others who
 may have been involved, collecting clothing and other items for use in evidence, delivering specimens for
 analysis.

Coronial Investigations

Every death reported to the Coroner must be investigated. The body of the deceased will be taken to the morgue where it may be viewed by the relatives but not touched. Once the coronial inquiries are complete (and this may take some time), the body will be released to funeral directors to await instruction from the next of kin. At this stage the body may be touched.

Post Mortems (autopsies)

Most reported deaths require a post mortem examination to determine the medical cause of death. This usually involves an internal and external examination of the body, and of tissue, organ and blood specimens taken from the body. Cultural and religious objections to a post mortem may be discussed with the coroner or a court social worker. However, these objections very rarely influence the coroner's decision to conduct an autopsy.

Inquests

An inquest is a public hearing before a coroner (and occasionally a jury) to decide the circumstances of death. Once initial investigations are completed, the Coroner may (as in 90% of cases) dispense with an inquest. However, the Coroner may order an inquest or, in certain circumstances (such as murder), an inquest may be legally required.

Appendix 7: Preparing for Funerals

This information is taken from materials published by the Australian Funeral Directors Association. A variety of reading material is available. Inquiries may be directed to:

Australian Funeral Directors Association 1/700 High Street, Kew East VIC 3102 (03) 9859 9966

When someone dies

When death occurs, the first practical consideration in most cases will be the need for a doctor's attendance. The deceased's doctor or the hospital authorities will explain what steps, if any, are required to establish the cause of death and complete the necessary death certificate. Meanwhile, the family may begin making their desired funera arrangements, which can be completed when the death certificate has been signed.

Arranging a funeral

Initial interviews with the funeral director can be at a location nominated by you. While some people may have a facter knowledge of the arrangements they want to make, others may want to consider a range of alternatives beforeaking any decisions. The funeral director is there to guide and advice on the many matters which need to be considered.

Decisions to make will include:

- Time and location of the funeral
- Type of service
- Burial/cremation (reflection of the religious or ethnic attitudes and family traditions)
- Type of coffin
- Viewing arrangements
- Choice of participants
- Floral arrangements, motor vehicles and other relevant matters

The funeral director

The funeral director will take responsibility for arranging, with the family concerned, the time and place for an appropriate funeral service by coordinating and liaising with clergy members, doctors, hospitals and cemetery or crematorium officials.

The funeral director will lodge notices in the press, arrange floral tributes, provide a hearse and other vehicles, a funeral chapel and any other facilities and personnel required to carry out the wishes of the family being served. A official forms must be completed and taken to the appropriate people at the right time. The funeral director, for example, registers the death with the Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

The funeral ceremony

All reputable funeral directors are able to provide a broad range of services to suit the precise requirements of the bereaved family. Funerals can be as different as the people they are for, with their main purpose being to help the bereaved in the first stages of grief. The order, style and content of service can all be varied to suit the family's needs. A personal tribute from a family member or close friend, or perhaps including appropriate cultural traditions may make the service more meaningful.



Special circumstances

Deaths from suicide and AIDS may sometimes present special problems because of old religious discrimination and/or social stigma. Nevertheless, the need for people to mourn and the rituals of the funeral are still essential fo friends and family.

When there is no body (e.g. drowning accidents, abduction) it is still important to acknowledge the life of the deceased and help the family and friends to accept that death has occurred. A special memorial service to allow everyone to say goodbye and be able to get on with their grieving is essential. The use of photos, significant object associated with the deceased's life, and perhaps candles are a great help to use in place of the body.

Grieving

Grief is not a single response, but a complicated series of feelings, emotions and even physical manifestations of person's reaction to the bereavement. Grieving is an intensely personal process. Each death is unique and every affected will respond differently. Most survivors however, will pass through similar stages of grief from initial shock numbness, and often denial and anger to realisation, acceptance and finally re-adjustment.

The intensity of grief experienced will be affected by a number of factors, including the degree of attachment to the deceased and the duration and quality of relationship with them. The greater the attachment, the longer it is likely take to resolve grief. However it is not the passage of time itself which brings resolution, but the working through of stages of grief.

Page **16** of **19**

Appendix 8: General Guidelines for Staff

Practical ideas to use with all age groups

- 1. Let the students tell you what happened.
- 2. Discuss what actually happened: give facts and sort rumour from fact.
- 3. Allow discussion time:
 - Where were you when it happened?
 - How did you find out?
 - What did you feel?
 - How might others feel?
 - The notion of blame is difficult. Instead try to incorporate what can be done now, into the discussion.
- 4. Some students like to write or draw to recall events, people, and emotions or to vent them.
- 5. Talk to the class about how they will respond and support survivors/victims during their absence (letters, visits etc.) and when they return to Ozford.

Practical ideas for use with adolescents

- Group discussions are important and useful. They allow time to express and normalise their reactions and it is helpful if teachers and adolescents share their reactions. "Crazy" thoughts, extreme emotions such as helplessness, frustration, anger and survivor guilt may need to be recognised and vented.
- 2. It is important and useful to end discussions on a positive and practical note as follows:
 - What heroic acts were observed?
 - What can we do right now contribute to a memorial service, practical support for victims and families?
 - What can we do in longer term? Discuss possible improvements to the way the situation was managed – what could we do better?
- 3. Plan a follow-up time. Offer referral for individual counselling. Let students know what sort of help is available and that it is okay to seek help. Peer support can be valuable if peers are emotionally able to handle it.
- 4. If moved to tears, don't be afraid to let students/adults see it can be very supportive and empathic.

For Staff: Coping with your own reactions to a critical incident/event.

It is important that teachers pay attention to their own mental and physical well-being and take time to ensure that they look after themselves, as well as their students, when a critical incident occurs.

Individuals have a wide range of responses to critical incidents and may be surprised by their own reactions or those of others. An individual's memories or experiences, and/or the accumulation of critical incidents, may increase the likelihood of a particular incident triggering a personal crisis.



Effects of critical events may include:

- Physical effects, such as changes in appetite and/or libido, sleep disturbances, increased susceptibility to illness, breathlessness, dry mouth, tremor and fatigue and increased sensitivity to noise, light and smell.
- A range of emotional responses, which may include anger, irritation, sadness, hostility, aggression, feeling inadequate, and denial.
- Altered thought patterns such as confusion, disorientation, forgetfulness, difficulty with tasks and normal routines, flashbacks, nightmares, poor judgment, and inability to assess others and oneself realistically.

The longer-term effects may include burnout or exhaustion, lack of interest in work or life in general, withdrawal from family and friends, escapism and over work. These responses impact upon family, social and work relationships and activities.

Appendix 9: Other Resources Available For Reference

ISANA has developed a critical incident kit which is available at: http://www.isana.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ISANACriticalIncidentsKit.pdf





Policy Version 2019 Ozford English Language Centre (CRICOS No. 02501G, ABN 35 100 454 475)

Student Critical Incident Report

Name of student:		
Teacher:	Course:	
Time, date and place of incident:		
Description of incident:		
	_	
Actions taken by staff:		
Actions taken by Critical Incident Team:		
,		
Other Comment:		

