



Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

Written By: Kristy Smith
Version: 1
Approved By: Puckapunyal and District Neighbourhood Centre Committee
Endorsed By: The Executive Committee, 14th May 2020.
Date for Review: 14th May 2021

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Purpose.....	2
Definitions.....	2
Policy.....	3
Responsibilities.....	4
Procedures	4

Introduction

The Puckapunyal and District Neighbourhood Centre recognises that Equal Employment Opportunity is a matter of employment obligation, social justice and legal responsibility. It also recognises that prohibiting discriminatory policies and procedures is sound management practice.

This policy has been designed to facilitate the creation of a workplace culture that maximises organisational performance through employment decisions. These decisions will be based on real business needs without regard to non-relevant criteria or distinctions, and will ensure that all decisions relating to employment issues are based on merit.

Purpose

This policy is designed to ensure that Puckapunyal and District Neighbourhood Centre complies with all of its obligations under the relevant legislation.

Definitions

Discrimination occurs if a person treats, or proposes to treat, a person with an attribute unfavourably because of that attribute. It can also occur if a person imposes, or proposes to impose, a requirement, condition or practice that has, or is likely to have, the effect of disadvantaging persons with an attribute; and that is not reasonable.

Equal Employment Opportunity consists of ensuring that all employees are given equal access to training, promotion, appointment or any other employment related issue without regard to any factor not related to their competency and ability to perform their duties.

Victimisation means subjecting, or threatening to subject, a person to any detriment because they have:

- asserted their rights under equal opportunity law;
- made a complaint;
- helped someone else make a complaint; or
- Refused to do something because it would be discrimination, sexual harassment or victimisation.

Policy

The Puckapunya and District Neighbourhood Centre is an equal opportunity employer and will provide equality in employment for all people employed or seeking employment.

Every person will be given a fair and equitable chance to compete for appointment, promotion or transfer, and to pursue their career as effectively as others.

Employment decisions relating to appointment, promotion and career development will be determined according to individual merit and competence.

Consistent with this, Puckapunya and District Neighbourhood Centre does not condone any form of unlawful discrimination or vilification, including that which relates to:

- gender;
- pregnancy;
- potential pregnancy;
- marital/domestic status;
- disability;
- race, colour, national extraction, social origin, descent, and ethnic, ethno-religious or national origin;
- age;
- family responsibilities, family status, status as a parent or carer;
- racial classification;
- sexuality;
- HIV/AIDS vilification;
- religious belief or activity;
- political belief or activity;
- industrial activity;
- employer association activity;
- trade union activity;
- physical features;
- breastfeeding;
- transsexuality;
- transgender;
- profession, trade, occupation or calling;
- medical record; and
- Criminal record.

In all cases no factors other than performance and competence are to be used as the basis for performance assessment, training and development opportunities and promotions.

This policy is to be used in conjunction with the Discrimination, Harassment and Affirmative Action policies.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to ensure that:

- all employees understand and are committed to the principles and legislation relating to equal opportunity and applying it in the workplace;
- employment decisions relating to appointment, promotion and career development are determined according to individual merit and the individual's inherent ability to carry out the job;
- the organisation has a workplace culture that encourages equal employment opportunity; and
- Sets an example by their own behaviour.

It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee to ensure that:

- all managers, supervisors and staff are aware of and understand their obligations, responsibilities and rights in relation to equal employment opportunity;
- all managers, supervisors and staff are committed to operating in accordance with the equal opportunity laws in the workplace;
- any matter which does not comply with the principles of equal employment opportunity are identified and addressed as promptly and sensitively as possible;
- immediate and appropriate steps are taken to minimise or eliminate unlawful harassment, discrimination, and bullying in the workplace; and
- Ongoing support and guidance is provided to all employees in relation to equal employment opportunity principles and practice in the workplace.

It is the responsibility of all employees, contractors and volunteers to ensure that they:

- comply with this policy and treat all colleagues and customers with respect and professionalism without regard to non-relevant criteria or distinctions;
- refrain from engaging in discriminatory or harassing behaviour; and
- Inform their manager or the Human Resources Department if they believe that they (or someone else) has been treated unfairly.

Procedures

Employees who believe they are being treated unfairly as a result of discrimination should promptly notify the Manager or the Executive Committee.

Should a complaint of discrimination or harassment be made, it will be investigated in a confidential and procedurally fair manner. If proven, the person responsible will be disciplined. In serious cases, this may involve dismissal.