



# AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE of INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING (AIIU) CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY

## OUR BELIEF

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

The General Manager of Australian Institute of International Understanding (AIIU) is committed to promoting and protecting the welfare and human rights of people that interact with, or are affected by, its work (wherever those operations might be) – particularly those that may be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation. AIIU has no tolerance for abuse, neglect or exploitation and will take a survivor-centric approach in all that AIIU does.

All Representatives of AIIU share responsibility for safeguarding persons, particularly vulnerable persons, from abuse, neglect or exploitation. Beyond this, particular people have specific responsibilities in relation to safeguarding (set out in this policy), and they must carry out these duties without exception.

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this safeguarding policy (the **Policy**) is to:

- help protect people that interact with, or are affected by AIIU
- define the key terms AIIU uses when talking about protecting people or safeguarding
- set out and develop the way AIIU manages safeguarding risks
- set out the specific roles and responsibilities of persons working in and with AIIU
- facilitate the safe management of incidents and
- support a positive and effective internal culture towards safeguarding.

This Policy supplements and must be read in conjunction with AIIU's Child Safe Policy. This Policy is intended to set out in a clear and accessible manner AIIU's policy on safeguarding with practical steps to ensure compliance.

## DEFINITIONS

**safeguarding** means protecting the human rights of people that interact with, or are affected by, AIU, particularly those that might be at risk of abuse, neglect or exploitation (such as vulnerable persons). This refers to any responsibility or measure undertaken to protect a person from harm.

**abuse, neglect or exploitation** means all forms of physical and mental abuse, exploitation, coercion or ill-treatment. This might include, for example:

- sexual harassment, bullying or abuse
- sexual criminal offences, including serious sexual criminal offences
- threats of, or actual violence, verbal, emotional or social abuse
- cultural or identity abuse, such as racial, sexual or gender-based discrimination or hate crime
- coercion and exploitation; or
- abuse of power.

**incident** means a situation where abuse, neglect or exploitation of a person (particularly a vulnerable person) has occurred or there are reasonable grounds to suspect that such abuse, neglect or exploitation of a person (particularly a vulnerable person) has occurred.

**reasonable grounds to suspect** is a situation where a person has some information that leads them to believe that abuse, neglect or exploitation has taken place, is taking place, or may take place. It comes with a low burden of proof (in fact, no proof is needed at all) but is based on some information. Questions that may help a person to determine whether they have 'reasonable grounds to suspect' might include:

- could you explain to another person why you suspect something? This helps to make sure that your suspicion is based on information, even if you have no proof; and
- would an objective other person, with the same information as you, come to the same conclusion? This helps to make sure that your suspicion is as objective as possible.

**Representative** means an employee, director, volunteer, host family, third-party provider or independent contractor, wherever located.

A **survivor-centric approach** means considering and lawfully prioritising the needs, right and wishes of survivors.



**vulnerable persons** means children (being a person under the age of 18) and certain other persons with a physical or intellectual disability, who suffer mental health issues or illness, are experiencing financial difficulty, who have needs for care and support, who are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background, who suffer social or financial hardship, have difficulty communicating in English or the local language or are otherwise unable to care for or protect themselves.

## SCOPE

This Policy applies to all Representatives of AllU.

## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

While the responsibility to protect people is shared by all who work at or with AllU, some individuals have specific obligations with which they must comply.

The General Manager of AllU has ultimate responsibility for:

- protecting all people that interact with, or are affected by AllU
- ensuring that there are appropriate and effective ways for AllU to do this
- ensuring that AllU observes all relevant laws relating to safeguarding and
- ensuring that AllU takes a survivor-centric approach.

The Regional Managers of AllU must:

- ensure AllU has effective and appropriate ways to manage safeguarding and legal compliance;
- ensure that reasonable steps are taken to ensure AllU's partner organisations (in relation to exchange programs):
  - are aware of this Policy; and
  - represent to AllU that they will comply with this Policy as if they were a Representative;
  - ensure that reports to external parties are made where required.



All managers of AIIU must:

- promote a positive culture towards safeguarding
- implement this policy in their area of responsibility
- ensure that the risks of incidents have been considered in their area of responsibility
- ensure that there are appropriate controls in place to prevent, detect and respond to incidents
- facilitate the reporting of any suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation and
- take a survivor-centric approach to potential incidents and ensure that any incident is dealt with transparently and accountably.

All staff and volunteers of AIIU must:

- familiarise themselves with the relevant laws, policies and procedures for safeguarding;
- comply with all such requirements
- report any incident to the appropriate authority when it is reasonable to suspect that a person's safety or welfare is at risk, noting there is a clear requirement for reporting of complaints and concerns to authorities, whether or not the law requires reporting, and to cooperate with law enforcement
- report any suspicion that a person's safety or welfare may be at risk to the appropriate authority and
- provide an environment that is supportive of everyone's emotional and physical safety.

## MANAGING SAFEGUARDING RISK

The way AIIU manages the risks of safeguarding will be:

- **Holistic.** AIIU and its stakeholders will work to prevent, detect and take action on incidents.
- **Risk-based and proportionate.** AIIU will regularly assess the risks to people in its operations and develop proportionate controls to mitigate those risks.
- **Survivor-centric.** AIIU will put survivors at the center of its approach to safeguarding.
- **Lawful.** AIIU will ensure that it understands and complies with the law in everything it does, in all jurisdictions in which it works.

Alliu will manage the risk of safeguarding by:

- having up-to-date and documented risk assessments
- maintaining a register of Alliu's legal obligations for safeguarding and workplace health and safety in all the jurisdictions in which it operates
- having an action plan that sets out how it will manage safeguarding
- adhering to this and other relevant policies
- doing due diligence checks of staff, volunteers and third parties
- implementing policies, procedures and systems that introduce controls to reduce the likelihood and consequence of incidents
- conducting awareness-raising for stakeholders on risks, expectations, and individual responsibilities
- accepting reports (including anonymous reports) made under this Policy
- having and implementing a Safeguarding Incident Response Plan and
- monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness and proportionality of its safeguarding approach.

## MANAGING INCIDENTS

### Alliu's rights

Harassment, abuse, neglect and exploitation are all serious misconduct and Alliu reserves the right to:

- take disciplinary action against those it believes are responsible, which may include dismissal, ensuring that it adheres to its obligation to comply with all aspects of Australian employment law
- take civil legal action and
- report the matter to law enforcement.

### Reporting suspected incidents

All Representatives must, as soon as practicable, report any:

- incident that has taken place, may be taking place, or could take place and
- suspicion that an incident has taken place, may be taking place, or could take place.

A Representative may do this through direct reporting to:

- their Regional Manager
- the Assistant General Manager or
- the General Manager.



A report can be made anonymously. This can be done by sending an anonymous letter or email, or by making an anonymous phone call.

However, it may be difficult for AllU to seek further information from the Representative where the report is made anonymously and there is no way for AllU to contact the Representative.

If a Representative believes that another person is at risk of immediate harm or the victim of a criminal offence, they must contact the authorities (e.g. the police) immediately.

The General Manager of AllU must be notified of any material incident under this Policy.

#### Responding to suspected incidents

All suspected, perceived, potential or actual incidents will be managed through the incident response plan.

#### External reporting

AllU must:

- report any material suspicion of a criminal offence to the police or the relevant criminal judicial body.

## PRIVACY AND DATA PROTECTION

All personal information considered or recorded will respect the privacy of the individuals involved in accordance with the terms of AllU's privacy policy.

## AVAILABILITY

AllU will ensure all Representatives and partner organisations (in relation to exchange programs) have access to this Policy.



## REVIEW OF THIS POLICY

The General Manager is responsible for undertaking an annual review of this Policy each calendar year, and after any material incident.

AllU will record, review and analyse complaints, issues, concerns and safety incidents for the purpose of identifying causes and systemic failures, and to inform continuous improvement. AllU’s **Evaluation Framework: Policies, Guidelines and Programs** outlines the process by which it will do this.

This Policy may be amended only by endorsement by the General Manager.

In accordance with the processes outlined in its **Engagement Overview**, AllU will share findings and actions taken in response to relevant reviews of its policies, guidelines and programs, including those related to child safety incidents, with students, families/guardians, staff and volunteers.

This policy will be reviewed:

- Reviewed annually or upon legislative amendment
- As part of continuous improvement
- Incorporated into AllU’s Child Safety processes and SEO compliance documentation

Policy last reviewed	February 2026
Approved by	General Manager
Consultation/Noting	AllU Management Team
Next scheduled review date	February 2027