

# HEWETT HOUSE – NAPIER GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

## DEALING WITH SEXUAL, PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE OF BOARDERS POLICY

### Policy Statement

All boarders are to be treated with dignity and respect, to have the right to be free from any abuse and to have their needs met in a safe environment.

### Purpose

- 1 To ensure the safety of the boarder is paramount.
- 2 To ensure that the Manager of Hewett House and staff, in cases where physical or sexual abuse is suspected or indicated by a boarder, takes positive Action that does not:
  - add to the distress of the boarder
  - compromise the Manager of Hewett House and staff
  - prejudice any possible later court action
- 3 To provide guidelines on the use of agencies outside Hewett House in dealing with the issues of abuse.
- 4 To increase the awareness of Hewett House staff and boarders about abuse issues.
- 5 To protect the informant in any abuse disclosure.
- 6 To give staff procedures for positive action to deal with cases where boarders have been abused.

### Procedure

- 1 Any incident of physical violence between boarders is dealt with immediately. Generally the Hewett House policy is to suspend any boarder who physically abuses another at Hewett House.
- 2 In the case where a boarder discloses abuse to a staff member, the staff member is sympathetic and affirms that any kind of abuse is always unacceptable, and listens to the boarder but does not promise confidentiality or question the boarder. The staff member will inform the Manager of Hewett House who will report the incident to the principal of Napier Girls' High School.
- 3 The Principal of Napier Girls' High School may seek the services of a Guidance Counsellor who will work with outside agencies if appropriate. The consideration of the safety of the boarder is paramount. The Principal of Napier Girls' High School will be informed if CYPS or the Police are involved. These two agencies have their own procedure on disclosure to parents / caregivers. Sections 14 and 15 of the Children and Young Persons Act provide the guidelines for referring to the child and Young Persons Service.
- 4 If there is staff concern about a boarder whose behaviour and circumstances give cause for concern about abuse, then the staff member should inform the Manager of Hewett House who will discuss the matter and decide on appropriate action.

- 5 If a boarder alleges abuse by a staff member the matter is referred directly to the Manager of Hewett House and then to the Principal of Napier Girls' High School.
- 6 Any person who makes a disclosure about abuse will have their identity kept confidential in the Hostel. Section 16 of the CYPF Act protects anyone who makes a complaint of physical, sexual or emotional abuse or neglect of a child under 17 to police or Social Welfare.

## **Reporting**

The Principal of Napier Girls' High School shall report to the Board and may request additional reports for the Board as she sees necessary.