

POLICY C20.3

CRITICAL INCIDENT

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

The Australian Dermal Science Institute (ADSI), provides higher education to students face-to-face via a third party agreement with Higher Education Provide – Australasian College of Health & Wellness Pty Ltd. ADSI approaches critical incident management in a structured and regularly reviewed manner, to ensure the safety of staff and students.

1.2 Purpose

The Critical Incident Policy establishes the principles under which critical incidents, crises, and other emergency events are managed across all organisations in the Australian Dermal Science Institute.

1.3 Scope

This policy and its procedure apply to all students and workers of the Australian Dermal Science Institute.

This policy and its procedure apply only to incidents considered to be critical. Non-critical incidents (refer Definitions) are handled in accordance with relevant Policies and Procedures.

Where injuries and illness are sustained during or as a result of a critical incident, the Health, Safety, and First Aid in the Workplace Policy and Procedure also applies.

1.4 Scope Exceptions

This policy does not apply to incidents which are not considered critical.



2.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Director has overall responsibility for ensuring critical incidents are managed according to this policy and its procedure.
2. The Head of School is responsible for overseeing critical incident management and for the actions attributed to them in the Critical Incident Procedure.
3. The Head of School is responsible for managing critical incidents relating to the students of their respective area.
4. All staff and students are also responsible for complying with this policy and related procedure.

3.0 POLICY

3.1 Critical Incidents

1. Critical incidents are adverse incidents, or series of events that have caused, or have the potential to cause serious damage to an organisation's people, operations, or reputation. It may be a traumatic event, or the threat of such (within or outside Australia), and causes extreme stress, fear or injury and hence results in psychological and/or physical trauma that may impact on workers, visitors, and students, including the ability of students to continue with or complete their studies. Critical incidents may include but are not limited to:
 - serious injury, multiple injuries or death of students, workers, visitors and others either on ADSI premises, involving one or more of the ADSI community - students, workers, others.
 - fire, flood, gas leak
 - acts of terrorism
 - natural disasters such as earthquake
 - a biological disaster such as a pandemic
 - missing students or workers
 - chemical hazards released into the environment
 - an armed offender on campus
 - other criminal activity, such as armed robbery
 - major disruption to IT technology that impacts on business continuation and student learning
 - suicide or attempted suicide



- verbal or physical abuse
 - interruption to utilities (e.g., electricity, water) for an extended period.
2. Where injuries or illness are sustained during a critical incident, the Health, Safety and First Aid in the Workplace Policy and Procedure and the Critical Incident Policy and Procedure apply – see Critical Incident Management Procedure.
 3. Non-life-threatening events, such as missing students, and severe verbal and psychological aggression may still qualify as a critical incident.
 4. A critical incident may also occur in a clinic or during online studies where the event may directly impact a student. Examples include an accident in a clinic or a cyber-attack or abuse online.

3.2 Principles

1. The Australian Dermal Science Institute establishes services and processes to ensure:
 - a. threats and potential crisis events are regularly identified and evaluated in order to strengthen ADSI's preparedness for any such events;
 - b. risk management plans are in place and regularly reviewed to ensure early risk identification and mitigation;
 - c. appropriate services are in place to support students and workers through any critical incidents or emergencies;
 - d. appropriate risk management plans are in place for managing a critical incident, crisis, or emergency;
 - e. health and safety risks are well managed; and
 - f. resources are made available for recovery from a critical incident, crisis or emergency, supporting ADSI's affected communities to resume normal business as soon as possible, including resources and services to address and support both psychological and/or physical trauma.
2. The Australian Dermal Science Institute deems any crisis or emergency situation as serious. The level of response required to effectively deal with such events is relative and depends largely on the magnitude of an event or incident – whether it has already happened or is at a high risk of occurring.
3. Critical incidents may occur affecting one individual student, worker or visitor, small groups, or large groups. Regardless of the number of individuals affected, care is taken to address each affected party's needs and concerns in the event of a critical incident.



4. The Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT) establishes and regularly reviews the Business Continuity Plan in accordance with this Policy, the Critical Incident Management Framework – see clause 3.3 - and the Critical Incident Management Procedure.
5. Each worker nominated to manage a critical incident, crisis, or emergency must do so according to this Policy, the Critical Incident Management Procedure, directions from the Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT), and directions from external emergency services (where applicable).
6. The Critical Incident Management Team (CIMT) will consider the actions required after the Critical incident, in accordance with the Business Continuity Plan.
7. The Australian Dermal Science Institute maintains records relating to critical incidents to enable effective reporting, monitoring and risk mitigation.

3.3 Critical Incident Management Framework

Prevention	Preparedness	Response	Recovery
Availability of welfare and support services for general concerns with the primary aims of avoiding a critical incident and providing timely support in the event of a critical incident.	<p>Risk Register and Mitigation Plan ensures that strategies are in place to ensure that the Australian Dermal Science Institute is well prepared to respond in the event of a critical incident.</p> <p>Health, Safety and First Aid in the Workplace Policy and Procedure.</p> <p>Critical Incident Policy and Procedure.</p> <p>Training and induction programs.</p>	<p>ADSI's Critical Incident Management Procedure and the Health, Safety and First Aid in the Workplace Procedure are thorough and systematic to ensure reliability in the midst of a crisis.</p> <p>Preparedness strategies support responses.</p>	<p>Recovery from a critical incident will take time. It will continue to have an impact not only on those directly involved but also on the broader community for a significant length of time. ADSI's Crisis Recovery Plan will include strategies to ensure support is in place to guarantee recovery.</p>



4.0 DEFINITIONS

- **Crisis** – a time of intense difficulty, trouble, or danger; a time when difficult decisions must be made; any event or period that will lead, or may lead, to an unstable and dangerous situation affecting an individual, group, or all of society.
- **Critical Incident** - an adverse incident, or series of events that has caused, or has the potential to cause, serious damage to an organisation's people, operations, or reputation; a traumatic event or threat of such which causes extreme stress, fear, or injury.
- **Emergency** - a sudden, unexpected event that requires an immediate response from internal or external emergency services.
- **Incident** – an individual occurrence or event that is out of the ordinary.
 - **Non- Critical Incident** - An event which is unanticipated or outside the accepted social norm, but which, in the experience of the general community, would not be considered an extraordinary occurrence or situation. A non-critical incident may be treated as a Critical Incident if it may result in serious harm or poses a real threat to property or individuals. Examples include but are not limited to:
 - accident or injury
 - harassment
 - bullying
 - misconduct
 - sexual harassment
 - racism
 - conflict
 - theft
 - brief interruption to the supply of a utility
 - first aid
 - minor flooding
 - minor property damage
- **Workers** – are defined in the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (C'wealth) as those who 'carry out work for a person conducting a business and include employees, contractors, agency staff, labour hire staff, people on work experience, sub-contractors, trainees, volunteers and out-workers'.



5.0 REFERENCES AND ASSOCIATED INFORMATION

- [All relevant national and/or state legislative instruments that stipulate requirements with which organisations are obligated to comply related to Emergency Management, Crisis Management, Critical Incident, Workplace Health and Safety.](#)
- Business Continuity Plan
- Critical Incident Management Procedure
- Health, Safety and First Aid in the Workplace Policy and Procedure
- Infectious Disease and Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Procedure
- Privacy of Staff Information and Records Policy
- Privacy of Student Information and Records Policy and Procedure
- Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response (Students and Staff)
- Risk Management Policy

6.0 POLICY OWNERSHIP

Policy Owner	Head of School, ADSI
Status	Reviewed on July 2024
Approval Authority	ADSI Academic Board
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Effective Date	11 November 2024
Implementation Owner	Head of School, ADSI
Maintenance Owner	Head of Compliance
Review Due	October 2027
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