

## 1. Purpose

Australian Paramedical College is committed to providing quality training and assessment in accordance with the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (SRTOs 2015) and as such, is required to comply with Commonwealth and where relevant State law regarding privacy and confidentiality of employees, clients and contractors.

APC complies with the Privacy Act 1988 and Australian Privacy Principles (APPs).

## 2. Policy Statement

Australian Paramedical College is committed to complying with obligation under the Privacy Act 1988, and the associated Australian Privacy Principles (APPs), specifically in the way it collects, uses, secures and discloses personal information.

Australian Paramedical College is committed to safeguarding confidential information obtained by any means by the RTO.

Australian Paramedical College will ensure:

- It maintains and provides a current Privacy Policy;
- Information gathered for the express purpose of training and assessment matters will not be disclosed to a third party unless prior written consent is provided by the individual concerned, except that required by law;
- The secure storage of all records, documents and data; (see Document, Record and Data Control Policy 006)
- The confidentiality of all information maintained on records.

## 3. Policy Principles

### 3.1 Legislation

- a. Australian Paramedical College shall abide by the Privacy Act 1988 and associated Australian Privacy Principles (APPs).
- b. The APPs came into force on 12 March 2014 and set out standards, rights and obligations for the handling, holding, accessing and correction of personal information (including sensitive information).

### 3.2 Underpinning Principles

- a. *Personal Information* is defined in the Privacy Act 1988 to mean “information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable:
  - i. whether the information or opinion is true or not; and
  - ii. whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not.

- b. *Sensitive Personal Information* is defined in the Privacy Act 1988 to mean “information or an opinion about an individual” that is also personal information, such as:
- i. racial or ethnic origin; or
  - ii. political opinions; or
  - iii. membership of a political association; or
  - iv. religious beliefs or affiliations; or
  - v. philosophical beliefs; or
  - vi. membership of a professional or trade association; or
  - vii. membership of a trade union; or
  - viii. sexual orientation or practices; or
  - ix. criminal record.

### 3.3 Consideration of Personal Information and Privacy

- a. *Open and Transparent Management of Personal Information* will:
- i. Ensure that personal information is managed in an open and transparent way.
  - ii. Take reasonable steps to implement practices and procedures that will facilitate dealing with enquiries or complaints from individuals regarding compliance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs).
  - iii. Ensure that it maintains an up-to-date policy about the management of personal information.
  - iv. Ensure that the Privacy Policy contains the following information:
    - The kind of information that is collected and held;
    - How the information is collected and held;
    - The purposes for which information is collected, held, used and disclosed;
    - How an individual may access their personal information that is held by and seek correction of such information as necessary;
    - How the individual may make a complaint about a breach of the APPs and how APC will deal with such a complaint;
    - Whether APC is likely to disclose personal information to overseas recipients, and if so the countries in which such are likely to be located.
  - v. Provide the Privacy Policy free of charge and in such form, as appropriate, and as is reasonable.
- b. *Anonymity and pseudonymity* will:
- i. Respect that individuals may not wish to identify themselves when making enquiries on products and services;
  - ii. However, require full personal details as required by law and for identification purposes from clients.

## 3.4 Collection of Personal Information

- a. Australian Paramedical College will not collect personal information from you unless that information is necessary for one or more of its functions or activities, or is required by law.
- b. Australian Paramedical College advises that it is required by law to collect, hold, use and supply personal information, in accordance with the National VET Provider Collection Data Provision Requirements.
- c. Australian Paramedical College will take reasonable steps at or before the time of collection to ensure that you are aware of:
  - i. Who we are and how to contact us;
  - ii. How to gain access to your own information;
  - iii. The purpose for which the information is being collected;
  - iv. Any organisation to which we would normally disclose information of that kind;
  - v. Any law that requires the information to be collected;
  - vi. The main consequences for the individual if all or part of the information is not provided.
- d. Australian Paramedical College collects information from you in the following ways:
  - i. When you register your interest online, apply for enrolment, request certain services or products, or otherwise contact or do business with us.
  - ii. Information may be collected from enrolment forms, certified documents, telephone calls, faxes, emails, letters sent by you.
  - iii. Information may be collected from third parties, such as other training providers, regarding confirmation of training and ongoing professional development that you have attended, as permitted by you.
- e. Should Australian Paramedical College collect information about you from a third party we will take reasonable steps to ensure that the individual is or has been made aware of the matters listed above except to the extent that making the individual aware of the matters would pose a serious threat to the life or health of any individual.

## 3.5 Dealing with Personal Information

- a. Australian Paramedical College will not use or disclose personal or sensitive information for any purpose other than what it was collected for, unless the relevant person has provided written consent to use or disclose that information in circumstances that are different to those for which it was collected.

The circumstances where an exception may occur are:

- i. Where the use or disclosure of this information is required or authorised by or under an Australian law or a court/tribunal order
- ii. The individual would reasonably expect to use or disclose the information for the secondary purpose
- iii. A permitted health situation exists in relation to the use or disclosure of the information
- iv. A permitted general situation exists in relation to the use or disclosure of the information

- v. Reasonably believes that the use or disclosure of the information is necessary for one or more enforcement related activities conducted by, or on behalf of an enforcement body.
- b. Australian Paramedical College collects your personal information to:
  - i. Process applications
  - ii. Manage your enrolment
  - iii. Record and maintain your details
  - iv. Administering training programs
  - v. Record and maintain details of your ongoing training and assessment
  - vi. Provide you with details regarding client services, benefits, and training opportunities
  - vii. Notify you about upcoming events and opportunities
  - viii. Gain feedback from you
  - ix. Communicate with you
  - x. Report to relevant authorities as required by law
- c. Direct Marketing:
  - i. May use personal information (specifically your name and relevant address details) and information about your preferences for direct marketing (i.e. the communication channels which you prefer for receiving direct marketing from us and the types of products and services in which you are interested in) so as to let you know about our services and benefits, where we have your consent.
  - ii. Provides an opt-out and/or unsubscribe method that is easily accessible for individuals to request not to receive direct marketing communications.
- d. Cross Border Disclosure :
  - i. Does not disclose personal information to overseas recipients unless prior written approval is received by the individual who the personal information relates.
- e. Adoption, use or disclosure of government related identifiers :
  - i. Australian Paramedical College Is required by law (*Student Identifier Act*) to collect, maintain and report to relevant government agencies the individual's Unique Student Identifier (USI) number in accordance with the National VET Provider Collection Data Provision Requirements.
  - ii. Will not disclose the Unique Student Identifier (USI) number for any other purpose, including on any certification documents you receive.
  - iii. Must not adopt the Unique Student Identifier (USI) number as its own identifier of the individual.

### 3.6 Integrity of Personal Information

- a. Quality of personal information:

Australian Paramedical College will take steps, as are reasonable, to ensure that the personal information it:

  - i. Collects is accurate, up to date and complete;

- ii. Uses or discloses, is, having regard to the purpose of the use or disclosure, accurate, up to date, complete and relevant.
- b. Related to the security of personal information:  
Australian Paramedical College will take steps, as is reasonable in the circumstances to:
  - i. Protect the information from misuse, interference, and loss as well as unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.
  - ii. Destroy the information or to ensure that the information is de-identified.

### 3.7 Access to, and correction of, personal information

- a. Australian Paramedical College provides all clients with electronic access to their own personal records, where the individual can update and maintain their own personal information.
- b. In some circumstances, Australian Paramedical College may not permit access to individuals for their personal information. If this is ever the case, will provide full details as to the legal reasons for this decision. These may include that Australian Paramedical College believes:
  - i. That giving access to the information would pose a serious threat to the life, health or safety of the individual, or to public health or public safety; or
  - ii. Giving access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of other individuals; or
  - iii. The request for access is frivolous or vexatious; or
  - iv. The information relates to existing or anticipated legal proceedings between the individual, and would not be accessible by the process of discovery in those proceedings; or
  - v. Giving access would reveal the intentions of in relation to negotiations with the individual in such a way as to prejudice those negotiations; or
  - vi. Giving access would be unlawful; or
  - vii. Denying access is required or authorised by or under an Australian law or a court/tribunal order; or
  - viii. Both the following apply:
    - has reason to suspect that unlawful activity, or misconduct of a serious nature, that relates to functions or activities has been, is being or may be engaged in;
    - Giving access would be likely to prejudice the taking of appropriate action in relation to the matters; or
  - ix. Giving access would be likely to prejudice one or more enforcement related activities conducted by, or on behalf of, an enforcement body; or
  - x. Giving access would reveal evaluative information generated within about a commercially sensitive decision-making process.
- c. When dealing with requests for access to personal information, Australian Paramedical College will:
  - i. Respond to request for access within 30 days of the request, if from an individual, and within a reasonable time, the request is from an organisation; and

- ii. Provide access to the information in the manner requested, if it is reasonable and practicable to do so.
- d. Australian Paramedical College does not charge a fee for access to personal information. The exception is re-prints of certification documentation previously supplied.
- e. With regard to the correction of personal information held:
  - i. should be satisfied that information is inaccurate, out of date, incomplete, irrelevant or misleading, will take such steps as reasonable to correct the information to ensure that, having regard to the purpose for which it is held, the information is accurate, up-to-date, complete, relevant and not misleading.
  - ii. Should refuse to correct information, will give written notice to the individual that sets out:
    - The reason for refusal
    - The mechanisms available to complain about the refusal; and
    - Any other matter prescribed by the regulations.

#### **4. Responsibilities**

The Quality Practice Coordinator under the delegation of the CEO will ensure that all employees are made aware of this policy and its underpinning legislative requirements, and comply with this policy always.

The Quality Practice and Business Operations Support Coordinator will ensure that all students and stakeholders have access to and awareness of this policy.

#### **5. Records Management**

All personal information and records are maintained in accordance with the Records Management Policy. (See Document, Records and Data Management Policy 006)

#### **6. Monitoring and Improvement**

All practices for Privacy by Australian Paramedical College are monitored by the Internal Quality Review Practices and the Quality Practice Coordinator under the direction and delegation of the CEO with areas for improvement identified and acted upon. (See Continuous Improvement Policy 026)