

## IEFT CRITICAL INCIDENT PROCEDURE

### **PURPOSE**

This document articulates IEFT's Critical Incident Procedure, and ensures the interests of students, staff and their families are protected in the event of a critical incident. This procedure sets out the actions to be taken if a critical incident occurs, the required follow up actions, and recording of the incident and actions taken.

### **SCOPE**

This procedure applies all critical incidents that occur within or outside Australia which affect IEFT's students and staff. This procedure is aligned with the *Critical Incident Policy*.

### **DEFINITIONS**

**A Critical Incident** means a traumatic event, or the threat of such (within or outside the campus), which causes extreme stress, fear, or injury to IEFT's students and staff, or a member of the public. Critical incidents are not limited to, but could include:

- a student death;
- a serious injury (for example, as a result of a traffic accident, violence, sexual assault, drug or alcohol abuse);
- an illness which has a seriously detrimental impact on a student's mental or physical health;
- a missing student (neither staff nor any of the student's friends have been able to make any contact with the student for a period in excess of 24 hours);
- an act of terrorism;
- other events, such as a natural disaster, an emerging epidemic or outbreak of disease (for example, SARS or Bird Flu), a global financial crisis, an outbreak of conflict between nations, or any other event that might impact on the health and safety of students;
- non-life threatening events that may also constitute critical incidents (for example, bullying, sexual harassment, theft); and/or
- a challenging incident in a student's Work-Integrated Learning activity.

**The Critical Incident Response Team** means the group convened by the CEO for the purpose of responding, advising and assisting in the event of a critical incident and its impact on the IEFT community.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

The **CEO** is responsible for:

1. Ensuring that IEFT staff are familiar with this policy, and are given ongoing training to ensure they can respond appropriately to critical incidents.
2. Ensuring at least two members of staff have successfully completed an accredited first aid training course.
3. Developing and documenting agreed protocols (including emergency contact details for key personnel) for engagement with external parties, including (but not limited to):
  - parents, partners and/or relatives of the person(s) involved;
  - Work-Integrated Learning agreements between IEFT and host organisations;
  - police and emergency services;
  - hospitals and medical staff;
  - relevant State and local Government authorities;
  - professionally accredited and registered counsellors; and
  - other groups as required.
4. Establishing the Critical Incident Response Team and:

- ensuring that the team has the required expertise and training to respond promptly, professionally and effectively to critical incidents;
  - allocating individual roles and responsibilities to team members in advance of a critical incident, including an executive role for management and communication.
5. Convening regular meetings of the Critical Incident Response Team to review incident scenarios and the Critical Incident Register, including actions taken.
  6. Briefing the Chair of the Board of Directors about any critical incident as soon as it is contained.

### **PROCEDURE (refer to following flow chart)**

In the event of a critical incident:

1. The **Dean (Emotionally Focused Therapy) or delegate** is responsible for:
  - leading the IEFT response to any critical incident;
  - convening the Critical Incident Response Team and allocating tasks to its members;
  - reporting the critical incident to the CEO as soon as possible;
  - managing the wider operational concerns and ramifications of a critical incident;
  - arranging debriefing and/ or referral to support services for students and staff as needed;
  - conducting a review of IEFT's response to any critical incident and reporting to the Executive Management Committee.
2. In the event of a critical incident occurring in a Work-Integrated Learning activity, the staff member(s) responsible for monitoring and supporting students will contact the host organisation, offer support to the affected student(s) and supervisor, and report back to the Dean (Emotionally Focused Therapy) on the incident and outcomes.
3. Any **IEFT staff member** who witnesses or is informed about a critical incident involving a member of the IEFT community is responsible for:
  - immediately advising the Dean (Emotionally Focused Therapy) or if he/she is unavailable, a member of the Critical Incident Response Team;
  - immediately contacting the relevant emergency services (for example, calling an ambulance) if required by the nature of the critical incident;
  - ensuring the safety of all on-campus students and staff during the critical incident;
  - completing an incident report as soon as possible after the critical incident.
4. Members of the **Critical Incident Response Team** are responsible for:
  - Following the Critical Incident Policy and this procedure to manage the incident;
  - putting into action emergency contact procedures for affected staff and/or students;
  - providing considered advice to the Dean (Emotionally Focused Therapy) about any other actions that need to be taken to mitigate the impact of the incident on the IEFT community;
  - demonstrating high levels of professionalism and leadership for students and staff within the scope of their allocated tasks and responsibilities;
  - protecting the privacy of staff and students affected by the incident.

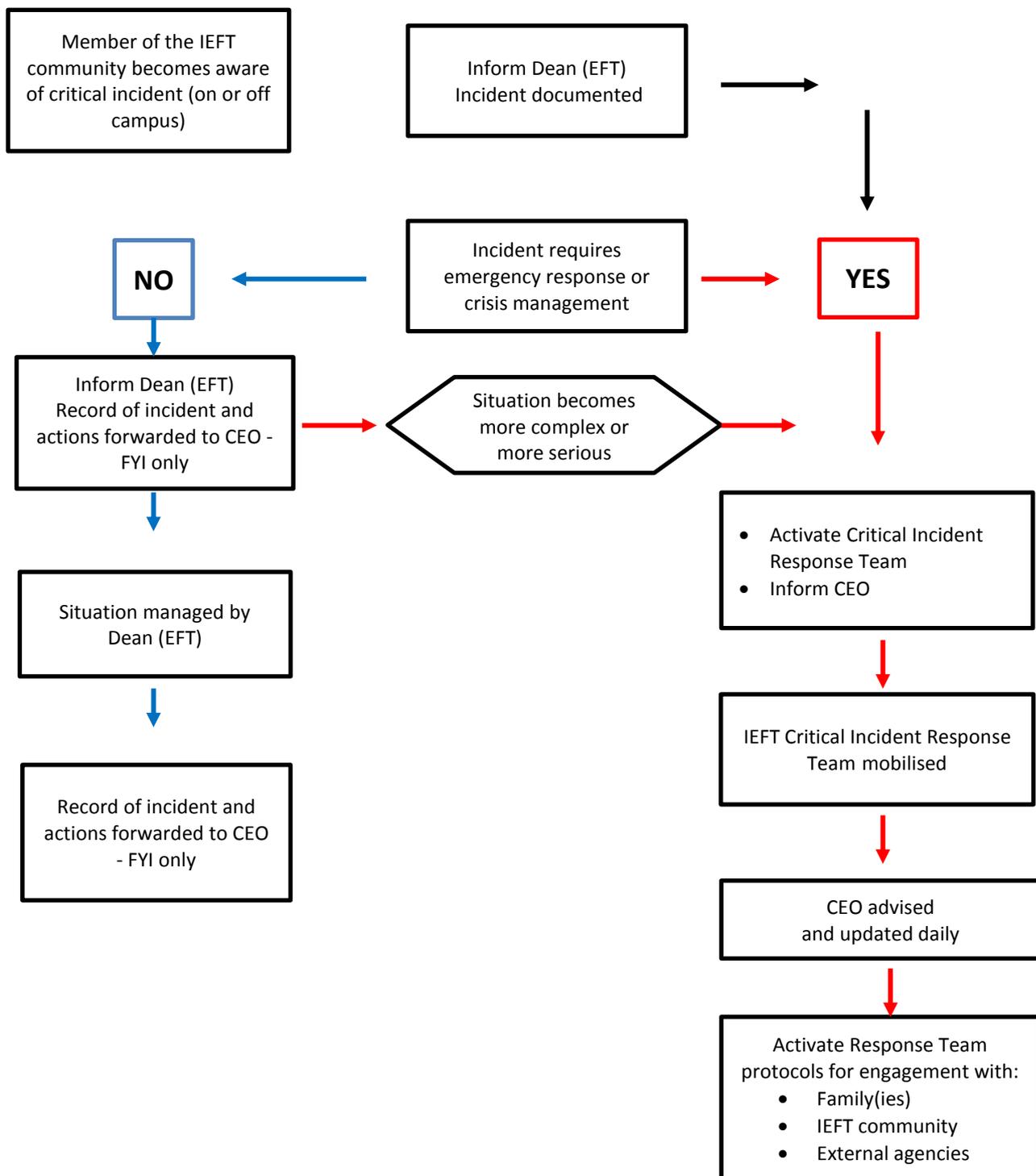
### **RECORDING**

All relevant aspects of the critical incident will be recorded by the staff responders in the Critical Incident Register and notified to the Dean (Emotionally Focused Therapy). A formal critical incident report will be compiled by the Dean (Emotionally Focused Therapy) and emailed to the CEO as soon as is practicable after the incident.

Key details to include in the report include:

- time of the incident;
- location (where it occurred);
- factual information regarding the nature of the critical incident and consequences for staff/students/third parties (e.g. threat, accident, death or injury); and
- names and roles of persons involved (e.g. student, staff member, other third parties).

**PROCEDURE: CRITICAL INCIDENT FLOW CHART**



## **FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION**

A review and evaluation of the nature and response to the critical incident will be conducted, and this procedure will be reviewed by the Executive Management Committee. The Review report will be provided to the Board of Directors.

## **RELATED**

Critical Incident Policy  
Work Health and Safety Policy  
Privacy Policy  
Work-Integrated Learning Policy

## **Version Control**

<b>Document:</b> IEFT Critical Incident Procedure		
<b>Approved by:</b> Academic Board		<b>Date:</b> 2017/03/07
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