

## International Student Services Under 18 Supervision Program, Welfare and Accommodation

# Risk Management Strategy: International Students under 18 years of age

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Description	This risk management strategy provides the guidelines, policies and procedures, and practices to manage all young people under the age of 18 registered in QUT Under 18's Supervision Program, welfare and accommodation, coordinated by International Student Services (QUT).			

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## 1. Introduction

This Risk Management Strategy consists of guidelines, policies and procedures, and practices designed to manage all international students under the age of 18 registered in QUT's U18SP, Welfare and Accommodation, coordinated by ISS.

This Risk Management Strategy incorporates requirements from relevant codes of practice, industry standards, legislation and other requirements that strive for best practice in supporting international students under 18 years of age.

#### 2. Definitions

"Accommodation Host" refers to the person/s or organisation/s (including PBSAs) providing the accommodation arrangement.

"Accommodation Officer" refers to the Accommodation staff member coordinating the QUT Accommodation office. The Accommodation Officer reports to the International Student Adviser.

"Blue Card" refers to a blue card under the Blue Card System.

"Blue Card System" refers to the Queensland <u>blue card system</u> pursuant to the *Working with Children* (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld).

"ESOS Act" refers to the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (Cth).

"Guidance Officer" refers to the staff member of IWS nominated by the SS Director providing general welfare and support to Students.

"Home Affairs" refers to the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs.

"IWS" means International and Welfare Services.

"SS Director" refers to the Director of Student Services.

"MOPP" refers to QUT's Manual of Policy and Procedures.

"National Code 2018" refers to the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018.

"Parent" refers to the parent/legal guardian of the Student.

"PBSA" refers to Purpose-Built Student Accommodation.

"Staff" refers to all QUT IWS staff - paid and unpaid, including but not limited to office staff, educators, and volunteers.

"Student" refers to international student/s under the age of 18 registered in the U18SP.

"Student Guidelines and Accommodation Rules" means the U18 student Guidelines & Accommodation rules accessible at Appendix 1.

"U18SP" refers to the Under 18 Supervision Program.

"Welfare and Accommodation" refers to the welfare and accommodation arrangements coordinated by IWS.

## 3. Statement of Commitment

- 3.1. The U18SP is committed to providing Students with accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements in accordance with QUT's obligations under relevant legislation, standards and codes. The U18SP is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all Students and will endeavour to provide a safe environment so that Students can successfully pursue their academic and personal development.
- 3.2. QUT is required to comply with relevant legislation and codes including the:
  - ESOS Act;
  - National Code 2018;
  - Migration Regulations 1994;
  - Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld).
- 3.3. QUT has also implemented policies and procedures relevant to the U18SP, in particular policies regarding the protection of children and young people and the QUT Staff Code of Conduct.
- 3.4. The following values reflect the culture of the U18SP. All international students under 18 years of age have the right to:
  - feel safe:
  - be listened to:
  - be involved in decisions that affect them;
  - have their cultural values respected;
  - not be unjustly discriminated against on the basis of their status, activities, expressed opinions or beliefs of their parents or carers; and
  - have their best interests considered (with parental/guardian consent).

## 4. Code of Conduct for Interacting with Under 18s

- 4.1. Staff it is expected that all staff who are involved with the program will abide by:
  - 4.1.1. The standards outlined in <u>QUT's Code of Conduct</u> and <u>QUT's policies and procedures</u> "protection of children and young people".
  - 4.1.2. <u>Blue Card System</u> and its policy and procedures for working with young children.
  - 4.1.3. Any other organisational requirements as set out by SS Director.
- 4.2. Students it is expected that all students registered in the U18SP, Welfare and Accommodation abide by:
  - 4.2.1. The standards outlined in QUT's Student code of conduct.
  - 4.2.2. Student Guidelines and Accommodation Rules (refer to Appendix 1).
  - 4.2.3. Requirements for the program attendance register the U18SP is required to maintain an attendance register for all Students. Attendance checks are contact sessions between the U18SP office and the Student to monitor the general welfare of the Student. A record of attendance is completed at the start of each contact session. Students who are marked absent will require follow-up.
- 4.3. QUT must ensure that the Accommodation Hosts meet the QUT U18SP, Welfare and Accommodation requirements and abide by:
  - 4.3.1. <u>Blue Card System</u> and its policy and procedures for working with young children.
  - 4.3.2. Any other organisational requirements as set out by SS Director such as QUT's policies and procedures "protection of children and young people".
- 4.4. QUT must monitor the Accommodation Hosts to ensure that Students are not being:
  - provided with any illegal substance or substance that is not made available to under 18s', for example alcohol, cigarettes or drugs;

- subjected to inappropriate language, comments, or behaviour; or
- subjected to any sexually suggestive comments, materials and behaviour, including any physical or emotional advances to form a relationship of a sexual nature.

## 4.5. Interaction of Students with those aged 18 or over

- 4.5.1. QUT staff abide by the Blue Card System checks and processes and QUT's policies and procedures regarding protection of children and young people. QUT enrols both students under the age of 18 and over.
- 4.5.2. Where possible, a U18SP staff member will monitor the interactions of under 18's with those aged 18 or over during all approved activities to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the student under 18.
- 4.5.3. Under 18 students will only be placed with a nominated accommodation provider that meets the U18SP, Welfare and Accommodation requirements to accommodate under 18 students.

## 4.6. Video and Photography

- 4.6.1. Managing the use of images of students under 18 will be subject to relevant legislation, the good practice guidelines set out by Child Family Community Australia (CFCA) and QUT's policy and procedures governing the use of material containing images of under 18 students consent-form.
- 4.6.2. This involves gaining the consent of the young person and their Parent prior to recording or producing images or the subsequent display or distribution of that photo or visual material.
- 4.6.3. Permissions to record and produce material involving under 18 international students are documented via the <u>QUT Consent form</u> and filed appropriately in the program folder.

## 4.7. Health, well-being, and safety

4.7.1. Program staff and students are required to comply with QUT's standards for health, well-being, and safety. The following information is provided to assist with student health, well-being, and safety.

#### 4.7.2. On campus

- QUT Security for emergencies
- QUT Fire Evacuation procedures
- Workplace Health and Safety policy and procedures (staff access only)
- QUT Medical Centres (GP and KG) for medical issues
- Safety on campus
- University drug and alcohol policy
- International Student Services welfare, counselling, and accommodation

#### 4.7.3. Off campus

- Contact 000 for emergency related to Fire, Police or Ambulance
- After hours contact 3138 2019 for international students
- Personal safety
- <u>Transportation</u> aside from accessing and using normal public transportation to travel to and from classes, any transportation arrangement of the Student must meet the requirements set out by the Guidance Officer. Students are not permitted to use ride share transportation modes (for example Uber, Didi, OLA).
- Technology and online safety

## 4.6.4 Duty of care

• Students cannot be left alone or unattended overnight. Accommodation Hosts are required to contact the Accommodation Officer to arrange a suitable plan to ensure that the health

- and safety of the Student is met. This may include a temporary relocation of the Student to another QUT approved accommodation provider.
- Upon successful placement of the student, the Guidance Officer or nominated QUT representative will accompany the Student until the arrival and/or collection of the student by the Accommodation Host.
- Students that present intoxicated or impacted by drugs will be referred to the Guidance
  Officer for referral to appropriate support services, such as medical and counselling
  services. In the event this presentation triggers an accommodation placement breakdown,
  the Student will be relocated to another QUT approved accommodation arrangement.

#### 4.6.5 Physical contact guidelines

- Any staff or Accommodation Hosts will not initiate, permit, or request inappropriate or unnecessary physical contact with Students (e.g., massage, kisses, hugging, tickling and wrestling games) or facilitate situations that unnecessarily result in close physical contact with a Student.
- Any staff, Accommodation Hosts, and guests of the Accommodation Hosts shall respect the
  privacy of the Student and not be in the same bedroom or enclosed area together with the
  Student, to avoid a breach of personal and professional boundaries.
- If there is a breach of personal and/or professional boundaries, any person can follow the reporting guideline noted in 6.1 of this Risk Management Strategy.
- Staff are not permitted to maintain social or business relationships with Students outside of the U18SP environment.

#### 4.6.6 Gifts

- Gift exchanges between Students and Accommodation Hosts are permitted for the purpose
  of special occasions, such birthdays and Christmas. There is no expectation from either
  party that this is a required/expected practice.
- If a gift is given, there is no requirement/expectation for the gift to be of a certain value.
- Any staff member receiving gifts must follow QUT's policies and procedures outlined in "Gifts and benefits".

## 5. Recruitment, selection, training and management procedures for staff

- 5.1. <u>QUT's organisational recruitment process</u> will determine recruitment and selection of suitable staff related to the position.
- 5.2. New staff will undergo QUT's induction and orientation training.
- 5.3. In addition to the recruitment process, all new and existing staff involved in U18SP, Welfare and Accommodation will:
  - 5.3.1. be required to comply with <u>Blue Card System</u> checks and processes and hold a current Blue Card;
  - 5.3.2. be familiar with QUT's ESOS information (staff access only) for staff;
  - 5.3.3. be trained and qualified in their specialised areas such as:
    - counsellors and welfare advisers (Social Work or Psychology degree required);
    - Guidance Officer and Accommodation Officer;
  - 5.3.4. be familiar with this Risk Management Strategy;
  - 5.3.5. be familiar with IWS Critical Incidents procedures (refer to Appendix 2);
  - 5.3.6. All staff involved in program will be familiar with:
    - The <u>ESOS Act</u> and <u>National Code 2018</u>;
    - Home Affairs Under 18 requirements;
    - QUT Student Grievance policy (via Student Ombudsman); and
    - QUT's policies and procedures "protection of children and young people".

## 5.4. Recruitment of Accommodation Host

- 5.4.1. Prospective Accommodation Hosts are required to complete and submit an online application.
- 5.4.2. To be registered and approved to accommodate Students a prospective Accommodation Host must:
  - complete an U18SP, Welfare and Accommodation interview process and complete an accommodation inspection;
  - sign and commit to the Accommodation Arrangement Agreement;
  - be familiar with this Risk Management Strategy;
  - ensure any Accommodation Host staff comply with the Blue Card System and be familiar with the Blue Card System;
  - provide the U18SP with their risk management strategy as required by <u>Blue Card</u>
     Services; and
  - attend any relevant training set out by the QUT.

# 6. Reporting guidelines and directions for handling risks, disclosures and suspicions of harm

## 6.1. Reporting guidelines:

- 6.1.1. Staff staff to report directly to the SS Director for consultation on incidents or matters related to the Student.
  - The SS Director will assign the Guidance Officer or other nominated staff member for case management.
- 6.1.2. Students Students can report an incident by contacting the Guidance Officer or IWS on 3138 2019.
  - Contact details are provided to Students, as noted in the Student Guidelines and Accommodation Rules. This information is provided to Students during orientation and induction.
- 6.1.3. Accommodation Hosts Accommodation Hosts can report an incident by contacting the Guidance Officer or IWS on 3138 2019. Contact details are provided as noted in the Student Guidelines and Accommodation Rules. This information is provided to Accommodation Hosts during the recruitment process.
- 6.1.4. Others any person can report an incident to the following contacts:
  - 000 if you believe child is in immediate danger of life-threatening situation;
  - Child Safety Centres 07 3037 0000 (Fortitude Valley) or Brisbane region offices; and
  - after hours 07 3235 9999 or freecall 1800 177 135 (Queensland only).

## 6.2. What is "harm"?

- 6.2.1. Harm is defined as "any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child's physical, psychological, or emotional wellbeing".
- 6.2.2. Harm can be caused by physical, psychological, emotional abuse or neglect, sexual abuse or exploitation.

## 6.3. Type of harm

Type	Examples	Indicators of abuse and neglect (examples)		
Physical	Hitting, providing any inappropriate substances such as poisons, alcohol, illegal drugs or medication Domestic and family violence	<ul> <li>showing wariness and distrust of adults</li> <li>low self-esteem, withdrawn</li> <li>abusing alcohol or drugs</li> <li>being unable to explain an injury, or providing explanations that</li> </ul>		
Psychological or Emotional	Verbal insults, hostility, bullying, cultural affront	are inconsistent, vague or unbelievable  feeling suicidal or attempting suicide		
Neglect	Not providing sufficient food, housing and hygienic livening conditions	being reluctant to go home     malnutrition, poor hygiene, matted hair, dirty skin or body odour		

Inappropriate touching, kissing or holding a sexual manner     Exposing a sexual body part to a child     Exposing children to sexual acts or pornography     Making obscene phone calls or remarks to a child	<ul> <li>unattended physical or medical problems</li> <li>comments from a child that no one is home to provide care</li> <li>being constantly tired</li> <li>frequent lateness or absence from school</li> <li>being left unsupervised for long periods</li> <li>fear of going home</li> </ul>
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#### 6.4. Assessing harm

#### 1. Gather information:

- o Facts
  - a) gather information from Student, Accommodation Host and other parties
  - b) record and document alleged harm, risk of harm, student's details, family context, social and cultural factors
  - c) Who, what, when, where
- o History has this occurred in the past?
- Risk factors identify features that may heighten risk or risk of harm (environment, person/s, interactions)
- Protective factors identify features that may decrease risk or risk of harm (environment, person/s, interactions)
- 2. Assess harm and risk of harm;
  - Assess immediate safety is the student in immediate danger, needs removing and be placed elsewhere?
  - Gather evidence to determine decision if student needs to be placed elsewhere severity of harm or risk of harm, probability and vulnerability
  - o How likely will this occur again?
- 3. Decide on response depending on staff assessment, a decision needs to be made on whether the Student needs to be moved to another accommodation arrangement
- 4. Decide on outcome if Student is moved, consult with ISS Director and determine action for reporting. Once a Student is moved from the accommodation arrangement, no other students will be placed in the accommodation regardless of whether there is a Blue Card investigation or not
- 5. Review if it is determined that the Student is safe to stay on, monitoring of the accommodation arrangement will be done on a case-by-case scenario

## 6.5. Managing and recording a disclosure or suspicion of harm

Any disclosure of harm must be documented in the first instance. Staff should;

- · remain calm and listen attentively, actively and non-judgementally
- ensure there is a private place to talk
- encourage the person to talk in their own words and ensure just enough open-ended questions are asked to act protectively (e.g. 'Can you tell me what happened' or 'Can you tell me more about that')
- Ensure the person is advised that the disclosure cannot remain a secret and it is necessary to tell someone in order to get help
- reassure the person they have done the right thing by telling you
- advise the Student that you need to tell someone else who can help the Student (counsellor)
- document the disclosure clearly and accurately, including a detailed description of
  - o the relevant dates, times, locations and who was present
  - exactly what the person disclosing said, using "I said," "they said," statements
  - o the questions you asked
  - o any comments you made, and
  - your actions following the disclosure
- not attempt to investigate or mediate an outcome
- follow any relevant process for reporting a disclosure of harm and consider whether there
  are requirements to report matters to the Queensland Police Service or Child Safety
- If there are suspicions of harm or concern for a Student's welfare, staff should;
  - o remain alert to any warning signs or indicators
  - pay close attention to changes in the Student's behaviour, ideas, feelings and the words they use
  - make written notes of observations in a non-judgemental and accurate manner

- assure the Student that they can come to talk when they need to, and listen to them and believe them
- when they do, and follow any relevant process for reporting a suspicion of harm and consider whether there are requirements to report matters to the Queensland Police Service or Child Safety, or consider what support services could be offered if the concern does not meet the relevant reporting process

## 6.6. Handling risks, disclosures and suspicions of harm

- a) Risks, disclosures, or suspicions of harm involving a Student should be reported to the Guidance Officer in the first instance available (at the earliest opportunity following the incident and deliver the written details).
- b) The Guidance Officer will then report to the SS Director for consultation. The SS Director will report to the relevant management up-line, should it require further attention.
- c) If the incident is considered serious, the staff member is encouraged to firstly, act to ensure the Student's safety and wellbeing and secondly, record in writing details of the incident at the earliest opportunity.
- d) The staff member must notify the SS Director at the earliest opportunity.
- e) Depending on the outcome of the assessment for harm or risk of harm, the incident/matter may be referred to Police, legal aid or other ISS/QUT staff for case management and/or follow-up.
- f) The SS Director will consult with QUT's Registrar's office to action any reporting.

## 7. Managing breaches of Risk Management Strategy

- 7.1. A breach is any action or inaction deemed contrary to the policies referred to within this Risk Management Strategy.
- 7.2. A breach can involve any;
  - staff member;
  - Student; and/or
  - Accommodation Host.
- 7.3. An incident report form (refer to Appendix 3) is used to document any breach.

## 7.4. Type of breach and control mechanisms

Breach	Control	Who is responsible?	
Staff code of conduct	In accordance with QUT MOPP	SS Director and if required, QUT HR	
Student code of conduct	In accordance with QUT MOPP	SS Director and if required, Registrar's Office	
Student Guidelines and Accommodation Rules	<ul> <li>Provide closer supervision, emphasising relevant section of Student Guidelines and Accommodation Rules, providing further education, mediating between those involved in the incident</li> <li>Place Student into other approved accommodation arrangement if deemed appropriate</li> </ul>	Guidance Officer SS Director	
Not having a current Blue Card	<ul> <li>Providing further education and training.</li> <li>Ensure that everyone required to have a Blue Card has a valid Blue Card before working (or continuing to work) with children.</li> </ul>	Guidance Officer	
Placing Student with Accommodation Host without verified Blue Card number	Emphasising the relevant component of Blue Card requirements     Removal of Student from accommodation and placing Student with verified Blue Card Accommodation Host, check other residents	Guidance Officer	

Student Visa	<ul><li>Home Affairs requirements</li><li>QUT Compliance</li><li>CAAW</li></ul>	QUT Compliance and Guidance Officer		
Participating in activities not approved by U18SP	Provide closer supervision, providing further education, mediating between those involved in the incident	Guidance Officer		
Blue Card requirements	Blue Card processes – Offences and penalties under the Blue Card System     Obligations under the Blue Card System  System	Blue Card Services		

## 8. Risk Management Plan for Activities

- 8.1. From time to time, Students in accommodation arrangements may request to participate in different types of activities. Requests to participate in activities outside of accommodation arrangements and classrooms are managed by the U18SP office (Guidance Officer or nominated QUT staff). Students are required to make a request by completing an Activity Permission Form (refer to Appendix 4) which is completed by the Student, approved by the Parent and returned to the U18SP office for approval.
- 8.2. Students participating in approved activities will need to obtain a risk management plan for the activity from the organising body/person and provide this document to the U18SP office prior to the request being approved. The Activity Permission Form is filed in the U18SP records management system along with associated documentation.
- 8.3. To determine the risk of the activity, the U18SP office will assess the risk of activity by completing an U18 Risk Management Plan for High Risk Activity (refer to <a href="Appendix 5">Appendix 5</a>). There are six steps to consider when assessing the activity;
  - 1. Describe the activity
  - · What is the activity?
  - · What is the purpose of the activity?
  - · What are your objectives in undertaking the activity?
  - · What are the elements of the activity from start to finish?
  - Where is the activity taking place?
  - · What environmental factors need to be considered?
  - · Who is involved in the activity? Parents? Staff? Children? People external to the organisation?
  - 2. Identify the risks
  - · Consider how might a child be harmed?
  - Where or when might harm occur?
  - · How might harm occur?
  - Why might harm occur?
  - 3. Analyse the risks

The purpose of risk evaluation is to make decisions based on the outcomes of risk analysis. The level of risk will determine whether the high-risk activity or special event is acceptable.

a) How likely is it that the harm will occur? (likelihood)

	Almost certain	Almost certain to occur in most circumstances			
	Likely	Likely to occur frequently			
Likelihood	Possible	Possible and likely to occur at some time			
	Unlikely	Unlikely to occur but could happen			
	Rare	May occur but only in rare and exceptional circumstances			

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b) What would happen if the harm did occur? (consequence)

	Critical	- Critical incident (e.g. death or permanent disability of adult or child; high level of distress to other parties).
Consequence		- Sustained negative publicity or damage to reputation from a
•		national perspective or from the community welfare
		perspective.
	Major	- Multiple injuries requiring specialist medical treatment or
		hospitalisation; and/or major occupational health safety & welfare
		liability incident / issue.
		- Major incident which damages public or parent confidence.
		- One or more children are lost from the main group.
	Moderate	- Serious injuries and/or illness.
		- Complex welfare and/or health care issue.
		- Serious disruption or incident, resulting in distress to children and
		adults.
	Minor	- Minor first aid or minor occupational health safety & welfare
		liability incident / issue (e.g. minor cuts, bruises, bumps).
		- Minor behavioural issues.
	Insignificant	- No treatment required

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#### 4. Evaluate the risks

The fourth step requires you to evaluate the level of risk, which will depend on your answers to the questions asked at Step 3. For example, if a risk is likely to occur and the consequences could result in major harm to a child, then this would be considered high risk.

Below is an example of a risk analysis matrix for analysing and evaluating risks in organisational activities. To determine the *likelihood* of risk using this matrix, refer to the left hand column of the risk analysis matrix. Then use the impact information to determine the level of *consequence*. Finally, combine the *consequence* and *likelihood* rating to arrive at the risk level.

		Likelihood				
Consequence		Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost Certain
	Critical	Moderate	High	High	Extreme	Extreme
	Major	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	Extreme
	Moderate	Low	Moderate	Moderate	High	High
	Minor	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	Insignificant	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate

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## 5. Manage the risks

What controls and responsibilities can be useful when considering the values and perceptions of the organisation?

What are the risk management options that needs to be considered?

6. Review - ongoing review is required to ensure that the risk management plan for high risk activity or special event is effective. Reviewing controls and responsibilities can be useful and effective for future planning. Good practice - review the risk management plan after the event or activity.

## 9. Strategies for Communication and Support

#### 9.1. Communication

- 9.1.1. Students communication and contact with Students will be made with either one or more of the following via;
  - U18SP Orientation
  - School orientation
  - Home visits
  - Telephone calls and SMS text to students and hosts
  - Email contact with students and host
  - Attendance register
- 9.1.2. Accommodation Hosts communication and contact with approved Accommodation Hosts registered with QUT will be made with either one or more of the following:
  - Accommodation Hosts orientation interview
  - Newsletter
  - Postal mail
  - Telephone, email or SMS text
  - QUT U18SP training
  - 9.1.3.1 Social media and mobile phones
  - Staff, Accommodation Hosts and Students are permitted to use social media platforms and mobile phones for the purpose of the welfare and care arrangements of the Student.

## 9.2. Support

- 9.2.1. Students and Accommodation Hosts support services provided by IWS including;
  - Counselling and welfare
  - Adjustment and settlement support
  - General advice
  - After hours contact Ph: 3138 2019
- 9.2.2. Staff needing support can seek assistance from;
  - Relevant supervisors,
  - QUT Human Resources and QUT Wellness (Health, Safety and Environment)
  - QUT EAP (Employee Assistance Program) 1800 808 374
- 9.2.3. Grievance procedures will be managed via QUT Grievance procedures

It is important to create multiple access points for the staff, Student and Accommodation Hosts to seek appropriate support and assistance.

Access points for assistance include contacting:

- IWS issadvice@qut.edu.au (Ph: 3138 2019)
- QUT Accommodation accommodation@qut.edu.au (Ph: 3138 2019)
- QUT Accommodation accommodation@qut.edu.au (Ph: 3138 1596)
- U18SP u18sp@qut.edu.au (Ph: 3138 2019)

## Informal

- Contact Guidance Officer for any related matters, contact details provided to Student at orientation
- Contact Accommodation Officer for accommodation related matters, contact details provided to Student and Accommodation Host at orientations
- In the event of a conflict of interest, referrals should be made to the SS Director to determine the appropriate actions to resolve matters

#### Formal

Student Ombudsman

## https://www.ombudsman.qld.gov.au/

## 10. Evaluation

- 10.1. Evaluation of the program will be done via;
  - Annual self-assessment and review by SS Director and/or nominated person/s
  - QUT staff involved with program
  - Surveys and evaluations as deemed suitable by SS Director

Review of this Risk Management Strategy will be required annually.

Version 4.1 for approval by SS Director completed on 23/11/2020 and approved on 14/12/2020.