

PURPOSE

The 'Academic Appeals' policy is designed to provide a transparent framework for handling disputes relating to academic decisions for students enrolled in courses offered by Health Industry Training.

POLICY

It is the policy of Health Industry Training that all students who disagree with the result of assessment items and academic decisions have the right to appeal against those specific decisions.

OVERVIEW

Health Industry Training is committed to providing an effective, efficient, timely, fair and confidential academic grievance handling procedure for all students. We ensure the principles of natural justice and procedural fairness are adopted. Academic matters include those matters which relate to student theoretical assessments, clinical assessment if applicable and practical placement outcomes (if applicable).

FORMAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

General principles applying to all stages of this grievance procedure which will be adhered to by Health Industry Training, are:

- The Complainant and respondent will have the opportunity to present their case at each stage of the procedure.
- The Complainant and the respondent have the option of being accompanied/supported by a third person (such as a family member, friend or counsellor) if they so desire.
- The Complainant and the respondent will not be discriminated against or victimised.
- At all stages of the process, discussions relating to complaints, grievances and appeals will be recorded in writing. Reasons and a full explanation in writing for decisions and actions taken as part of this procedure will be provided to the Complainant and/or the respondent if requested.
- Records of all grievances will be kept for a period of five years. These records will be kept strictly confidential.

- A Complainant shall have access to this grievance procedure at no cost.

Stage One

Formal grievances should be submitted in writing to the General Manager.

The General Manager will discuss the complaint with the relevant parties and then assess the responses from each party, determine the outcome and advise the Complainant in writing of their decision within 14 days.

The Complainant will be advised of their right to access stage two of this procedure if they are not satisfied with the outcome of Stage One.

Stage Two

If the Complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of Stage One they may lodge an appeal in writing with the Executive Director.

The Executive Director will conduct all necessary consultations with the Complainant and other relevant persons and make a determination of the appeal. The Complainant will be advised in writing of the outcome of their appeal, including the reasons for the decision, within 10 days.

The Complainant will be advised of their right to progress to Stage Three of the grievance procedure if they consider the matter unresolved.

Stage Three

If the Complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of Stage Two they may refer the matter to an external dispute resolution body of their choosing.

The Complainant is requested to provide the external dispute resolution body with the Executive Director's contact details.

Health Industry Training will give due consideration to any recommendations arising from the external review within 5 days.