



Australian Government
Department of Education

Welcome

NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION CODE TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

WEBINAR: Standard 7 of the National Code - Safe
Student Accommodation



Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Education acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and Elders past and present.

We extend our respects to any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with us today.



Victim-survivor acknowledgement

We acknowledge the profound strength, courage and resilience of those who have experienced gender-based violence. Their lived experiences and tireless advocacy have been instrumental in shaping the National Code.

We also recognise the commitment of advocates, practitioners and community members who have stood alongside victim survivors, amplifying their stories and driving change.



Agenda

- Overview of Standard 7
- Requirements for:
 - Staff screening and staff declarations
 - Directly owned, operated or managed student accommodation
 - Controlled or affiliated student accommodation
- Next Steps
- Q&A



National Code - Application to student accommodation

Three distinct categories

1. Directly owned, managed and/or operated by a higher education provider
2. Otherwise under the control of a higher education provider
3. Affiliated with a higher education provider

Accountability for meeting National Code requirements in student accommodation lies with the higher education provider.

Staff screening and declarations

Requirements for directly owned, operated or managed student accommodation

- Student accommodation staff to declare investigations or determinations of gender-based violence
- Consider declaration made and arising risks in determining suitability for positions
- Consider substantiated allegation with respect to engagement, promotion or recognition
- Ask staff to declare past or present intimate personal relationships with residents and manage conflicts of interest

**Directly owned,
managed and/or
operated
student
accommodation**

Higher education provider requirements for directly owned, managed and/or operated student accommodation:

- Included in Whole-of-Organisation Prevention and Response Plans
- Included in actions to comply across Standards 1 – 6

Controlled or affiliated student accommodation

Requirements

- Whole of organisation approach
- Safe environments and systems
- Knowledge and capability
- Safety and support
- Data, evidence and impact

Whole-of- organisation approach

Whole-of-Organisation Prevention and Response Plan

- Approaches to prevent and respond to gender-based violence prioritising safety
- Actions to address drivers of gender-based violence
- Actions to address systemic gender-based violence risks and barriers
- An overview of how requirements under Standards 7.2 - 7.8 will be met

Safe environments and systems

Arrangements to be in place, so that student accommodation providers:

- Mitigate risks related to any staff history of gender-based violence and intimate personal relationships with a resident
- Have appropriate gender-based violence policies and procedures compliant with Standard 5: Safe processes, reviewed at least every three years
- Amend policies on the use of non-disclosure and non-disparagement agreements

Knowledge and capability

Requirements

Staff and residents are trained in person-centred and trauma-informed prevention and responding to disclosure

- Evidence-based prevention communication tailored to student accommodation settings
- Undertake risk assessments for disclosures and formal reports by people with the right expertise

Safety and support

Responses to disclosure are safe, trauma-informed and person-centred

- Promoting access to policies, procedures and support services
- If disclosures are made:
 - Immediate action to assess and manage risk and prioritise safety
 - Enabling disclosers to choose whether their higher education or student accommodation provider lead responses
 - Ensuring risk assessments and support plans for disclosers and respondents developed within 48 hours
 - Consulting the discloser wherever possible and considering their views

Data, evidence and impact

Requirements

- Data is collected in a safe, trauma-informed and person-centred manner and is handled securely
- Data is used to strengthen the Whole-of Organisation Prevention and Response Plan
- Data collection informs evaluation, impact and planning for prevention and response approaches
- Providing data to the Department of Education to meet annual data and other reporting requirements

What happens next?

The National Code commences on 1 January 2026

- Data collection from 1 January 2026 (Table A + B providers)
- Prepare, implement and publish a Whole-of-Organisation Prevention and Response Plan
- By 30 June each year, higher education providers to provide the names of student accommodation providers that are:
 - directly owned, operated, or managed
 - under the control
 - affiliated



Q & A



Thank you

<https://www.education.gov.au/highereducationGBVcode>

