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International Students Complaints Appeals Policy

Source of Obligation Standard 10 of the National Code requires the School to have and implement a documented appeals process and policy, and provide the international student with comprehensive, free and easily accessible information about that process and policy.

Meriden School's Policy It is the School's policy that if a formal written complaint received by, or related to, an international student is not resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant, it may, at the request of the complainant, be escalated to an internal Appeals Panel.

Appeals Panel An Appeals Panel will be assembled as needed, and will be made up of a minimum of three members who have the requisite independence from the issue at hand to address the appeal on its merits, in a professional, fair and transparent manner. Staff who hold the following positions are eligible to sit on the Appeals Panel:

- the Principal
- Head of Teaching and Learning
- Head of Student Wellbeing
- Head of Junior School
- Head of Operations
- Director of Compliance
- Deans
- Year Group or Stage Coordinators

The make-up of the Appeals Panel will be determined by the Principal on a case-by-case basis, depending on availability and the nature and complexity of the complaint to be considered.

Where the matter is escalated to an Appeals Panel, the Panel aims to resolve the complaint within 28 days from the date of referral and, in any event, no later than 42 days after the original complaint was received.

Right to Access External Appeals Processes If an international student is not successful in the School internal appeals process, the School must advise the international student within 10 working days of concluding the internal review of the international student's right to access an external complaints handling and appeals process at minimal or no cost.

The School directs students to the Overseas Student Ombudsman (OSO).

The OSO investigates complaints about problems that international students or intending international students may have with private education and training in Australia. The contact details for the OSO are as follows:

Call: 1300 362 072 within Australia. Outside Australia call +61 2 6276 0111.

Enquiries: 9:00am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday, Australian Eastern Standard Time (Australian Eastern Daylight Time when daylight savings is in effect)

Postal: Commonwealth Ombudsman, GPO Box 442 Canberra ACT 2601.

Website: <http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/>

Purpose of External Appeals Process

The School must inform an international student who wishes to access the services of the OSO that, in most cases, the purpose of the OSO is to investigate whether the School has followed our own internal policies and procedures. Generally, the OSO does not make a decision in place of the School.

Result of Appeal Process

If the internal or external appeal process results in a decision or recommendations in favour of the international student, the School must immediately implement the decision or recommendation and/or take preventative or corrective action required by the decision, and advise the international student of that action.

Record Keeping

The School maintains a full Complaints Register including the details, outcome and reason for the outcome, including any appeals requests or decisions, of each complaint received by the School. The Complaints Register is maintained in accordance with our **International Students Records Management and Retention Policy**.