



# Mannix College Discrimination, Harassment, Hazing, Bullying and Intimidation Policy

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. About	1
2. Jurisdiction	2
3. Definitions	2
3.1. Sexual Consent	2
3.2. Bullying	2
3.3. Discrimination	3
3.4. Harassment	3
3.5. Hazing	4
3.6. Racism and Racial Vilification	4
3.7. Sexual Harm	5
4. Telling someone about an incident	6
5. General	7

## **1.About**

- 1.1. Mannix College is committed to its responsibility for maintaining an environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, hazing, bullying and intimidation.
- 1.2. All persons associated with Mannix College - residents, guests, staff and volunteers - share the responsibility to maintain an environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, hazing, bullying and intimidation.
- 1.3. This policy should be read in conjunction with other College policies, particularly the Conditions of Residency.
- 1.4. The list of problematic behaviours associated with this policy below is not exhaustive and meant only as a guide.

## 2. Jurisdiction

- 2.1. This policy applies to all Mannix College residents, guests, staff and volunteers.
- 2.2. Every person covered by this policy is responsible for familiarising themselves with and adhering to this policy.

## 3. Definitions

### 3.1. *Sexual Consent*

Consent is when the person engaging in conduct of a sexual nature reasonably believes that the other person has freely agreed to it.

A person does not freely agree to an act when they:

- submit because of force, or the fear of force, to themselves or someone else
- submit because they fear harm of any type to themselves or someone else
- submit because they are unlawfully detained
- are asleep, unconscious, or so affected by alcohol or another drug that they are incapable of freely agreeing
- are incapable of understanding the sexual nature of the act
- are mistaken about the sexual nature of the act or the identity of the person
- mistakenly believe that the act is for medical purposes.

### 3.2. *Bullying*

Bullying implies intent and is the repeated unreasonable treatment of an individual or group. It has been defined in a number of ways including the following: Bullying may include behaviour that can intimidate, degrade and humiliate another person, sometimes in front of other people or alone. It may include abuse of power, isolation, alienation, or be the result of conflicts of opinion or personality. It can include inappropriate comments about personal appearance, physical or verbal abuse.

Bullying is harassment which is directed at an individual person or group of people; and is offensive, intimidating, humiliating or threatening; and is unwelcome and unsolicited; and a reasonable person would consider it to be offensive, intimidating, humiliating or threatening for the individual person or group of people. Examples:

- physical violence, pushing or shoving
- imitating someone's accent or disability
- repeated, unwelcome questions about someone else's personal life
- damaging a person's personal property

- continually ignoring or dismissing someone's contribution in a meeting or discussion
- staring and glaring at a person.

Any initiation or similarly coercive practice is absolutely forbidden; 'tradition' or past practice is not an acceptable excuse or ameliorating factor. If you attempt to conduct, or participate in, any kind of initiation rite of any sort, including any act of humiliation or bastardisation, you should expect a penalty.

### **3.3. *Discrimination***

Discrimination occurs when one party intentionally or unintentionally treats a group or individual differently on the basis of ethnicity, gender, disability, age, personal appearance, sexual preference, religious beliefs or political beliefs without a legitimate, or justifiable reason so as to interfere with or limit the ability of that individual or group from participating in or benefitting from the services, activities or privileges afforded to members of the residential community.

A discriminatory act is one that treats a person less favourably than another because of one of the following attributes, and may result in heavy penalties:

- Sex
- Relationship status
- Pregnancy
- Parental status
- Breastfeeding
- Age
- Race
- Impairment
- Religious belief or activity
- Political belief or activity
- Trade union activity
- Lawful sexual activity
- Gender identity
- Sexuality
- Family responsibilities

### **3.4. *Harassment***

Harassment refers to behaviour towards an individual or group of individuals that may or may not be based on the attributes listed above, and could be defined as less favourable treatment of a person by another or others which may be considered unreasonable or inappropriate practice. It includes behaviour that intimidates, offends, degrades or humiliates in circumstances where a reasonable person would have anticipated the possibility that the other person would be offended, humiliated or intimidated by the conduct. It covers a range of unwelcome, unsolicited and non-reciprocated behaviour. This may constitute deliberate or unintentional communication, verbal or otherwise, or physical contact of a sexual nature.

Some practical examples of these behaviours have been defined as follows:

- Offensive posters
- Chauvinistic comments
- Offensive and/or libellous emails or social media posts
- The influence of pack mentality
- Rumours and malicious gossip
- Peer pressure
- Making fun of someone because of their race, disability, and/or age
- Exploiting people in an intoxicated state
- Excluding behaviour
- Comments about weight or personal appearance
- Insensitivity towards cultural differences
- Defamatory statements and making false accusations

### **3.5. *Hazing***

Hazing includes any action or situation (e.g. initiation ceremony, ritual, challenge or other activity) with or without the consent of participants, for the purpose of admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for, continued membership or acceptance into a group (e.g. a club, team, hall, society).

Hazing can look like:

- singing songs or chants which denigrate, are abusive, use obscene language or are sexist, contravenes state and federal laws
- being made to participate in drinking games or consume large amounts of alcohol
- being made to sit on the floor, while others in the group sit on chairs
- being forcibly woken up at an early hour
- being made to wear clothes that are embarrassing

### **3.6. *Racism and Racial Vilification***

Racism is the expression of attitudes, or behaviours, based on an assumption of the superiority of one race or group of persons of colour, ethnic origin, or culture, over another. Racism may also be expressed by what is not done as well as what is done. Racial vilification is a public act done in whole or in part because of the race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin of a person or group which is reasonably likely in all the circumstances to offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate that person or group.

Racial harassment can involve:

- Non-verbal threats, verbal remarks or non-verbal contact relating to race
- Jokes or comments denigrating a racial group
- Displays of racist graphic material including posters, pinups, cartoons, graffiti or messages left on notice boards, desks or common areas or on computer screens

- Race-based insults, taunts, teasing or name-calling; offensive phone calls or letters
- Threatening violence against an individual or group because of their race
- Racist gestures made in public
- Mimicking a person's accent
- People wearing racist symbols (such as badges) or clothing with racist slogans in public
- Offensive e-mail messages or computer screensavers

### 3.7. **Sexual Harm**

Sexual harm covers a range of sexual misconduct, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, and any other form of unwanted contact of a sexual nature.

**Sexual assault** - Sexual assault is any contact of a sexual nature made without the other person's consent. It includes threatening, intending, or compelling another person to have such contact, and can involve anything from sexual touching through to rape.

'Sexual assault' is often called other names like: sexual abuse, rape, indecent behaviour, indecent assault, sexual molestation, incest, child sexual abuse, child sexual assault, touching, 'feeling up', sexual harassment. The legal term for all these kinds of offences is 'sexual assault'.

**Sexual touching** - Sexual touching is touching another person with any part of the body, or with anything else considered sexual. This includes touching through another person's clothing.

**Rape** - Rape is forced sexual penetration (by a body part or object) of the vagina, anus or mouth without consent. Rape is a form of sexual assault, but not all sexual assault is rape.

**Sexual harassment** - Sexual harassment is any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature that might intimidate, insult or humiliate. It could be physical, spoken or written, and includes:

- comments about a person's private life or appearance
- sexually suggestive behaviour such as staring
- brushing up against someone, touching, fondling or hugging
- sexually suggestive jokes or comments
- unwanted requests to go out or engage in sex
- sexually explicit emails, posters, text messages or social media posts.

Sexual harassment is different from an interaction that's consensual, welcome or reciprocated.

A single incident can amount to sexual harassment – the behaviour doesn't have to occur more than once.

## 4. Telling someone about an incident

- 4.1. At Mannix, there are different ways of telling someone about an incident that may have happened to you or someone else.
- 4.2. Mannix College does not require you to report if you do not wish to, and we will help you access services as needed. It is your choice if you wish to report to the College, the Police and/or the University, or none of these.
- 4.3. If you wish to tell someone about an incident, you could consider:
  - **“Disclosing”** simply means telling someone. It could be a friend, a parent, a sibling, a health professional, the College counsellor, a student leader or a member of Mannix staff. Residents who make a disclosure want to share their story and for no further action to be taken. Should the resident wish for action to be taken they can choose to report at any time.
  - **“Reporting”** is telling someone in a context where you expect action to be taken. Actions could include monitoring a situation, informal talking to someone responsible for an incident, or a more formal process as per the Conditions of Residency. If you report to the College, the College is able to take action.

Residents who make a report may want the perpetrator to know that their behaviour wasn't okay, may wish the College to apply its structured process of investigation, accountability and action as per the Conditions of Residency, or something else. The College will listen and respond to your wishes if you choose to report.

- 4.4. Within Mannix, you can disclose or report to an RA or MCSS Committee member, Dean of Students & Wellbeing, Dean of Studies & Careers, or the Principal. These people have received training to enable them to respond compassionately and effectively to concerns on a wide range of issues. They will be able to explain the options, including advice about how you may wish to resolve the problem informally or formally within or beyond College systems or processes.
- 4.5. At all times the College aims to deal with incidents and issues in a confidential manner and in accordance with your wishes as long as this does not conflict with the College's obligation to the safety and support of all residents and staff.
- 4.6. All Mannix staff, including Resident Advisors, must notify the Principal of any disclosures of sexual misconduct of which they become aware. Information provided to the Principal may be de-identified where appropriate.
- 4.7. You have the right to make disclosures to external bodies at any time, such as:
  - Police 000
  - [Sexual Assault Crisis Line](#): 1800 806 292 or 03 9349 1766

- [1800 Respect](#): 1800 737 732
- [Centre Against Sexual Assault \(CASA\)](#): 03 9635 3610
- [South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault \(SECASA\)](#): 03 9594 2289
- Monash University has a number of reporting options. If you are thinking of reporting to the University, the College will support your decision and can assist you upon request. The Monash University Safer Community Unit investigates incidences of behaviour on campus that may be concerning, unacceptable or illegal. They can also assist if you are going through a difficult situation and are not sure who to contact.

Opening hours: Mon–Fri, 9am – 5pm

Phone: 03 9905 1599

Email: [safercommunity@monash.edu](mailto:safercommunity@monash.edu)

- 4.8. Mannix College takes allegations seriously, and will provide a swift and coordinated response to limit any further risk to the victim or College members. Incidents will be treated in accordance with the Conditions or Residency and other College policies.
- 4.9. The safety and support needs of all parties involved in a report will be considered and addressed as part of any process undertaken in response to an incident.

## 5. General

- 5.1. Mannix College reserves the right to change this Policy at any time by publishing such changes or revised documents on the Mannix website. All changes take effect immediately, or such later date specified by Mannix College.

Last updated: 4 November 2022