



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ANTI-DISCRIMINATION, ANTI-HARASSMENT AND ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

Date of Approval:	February 2nd 2023
Version:	2
Review Date:	February 2nd 2024
Policy Type:	Board Policy

## Review History Table

A Liquid Future's Equal Opportunity Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment and Anti-Bullying Policy will be reviewed annually. Some circumstances may trigger an early review, this includes but is not limited to legislative changes, organisational changes, incident outcomes and other matters deemed appropriate by the Board and/or Chief Executive Officer. A Liquid Future retains records to document each review undertaken. Records may include minutes of meetings and documentation of changes to policies and procedures that result from a review.

Revised on	Version	Date of Approval	Approved by	Content reviewed/ Purpose
28/01/2023	1	14/12/2020	ALF Board	Policy Revised
	2	02/02/2023	ALF Board	Policy Revised

A Liquid Future is committed to taking reasonable steps to ensure a workplace free of all forms of discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment and bullying. It aims for equality of opportunity for all employees.

This policy is intended to ensure that there is a shared understanding amongst all A Liquid Future employees, temporary staff, independent contractors, volunteers and interns/ work placements personnel of A Liquid Future's expectations in regards to acceptable and appropriate behaviour within the workplace.

It is the primary responsibility of management to take reasonable measures to provide a working environment free from discrimination, harassment and bullying. It is the responsibility of every employee to not participate in discriminatory or harassing behaviour within the workplace.

Any complaints or reports of discrimination, harassment or bullying will be treated quickly and seriously. They will be investigated thoroughly, impartially and where possible, confidentially (when investigating some complaints confidentiality is not always possible). Managers must act immediately on any reports of harassment. Principles of natural justice will apply. Employees will not be disadvantaged in their employment conditions or opportunities as a result of lodging a complaint.

Outlined within this policy is an internal dispute resolution process to assist our employees to raise issues of concern. Appropriate disciplinary action may be taken against anyone found to have breached this policy.

## **Discrimination**

Discrimination is unlawful under federal legislation, including the Age Discrimination Act 2004 (Cth), Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth); Racial Discrimination Act 1975 (Cth); Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth); Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986 (Cth); and the Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth) which may change from time to time.

**Direct discrimination** is treating or proposing to treat a person with a protected attribute unfavourably because of that attribute (listed below). The new test is whether or not certain treatment was less favourable to the person claiming discrimination, placing emphasis on the consequences of the treatment on the person claiming direct discrimination because of a protected attribute.

**Indirect discrimination** can occur when there is a requirement or condition or practice that is the same for everyone but disadvantages a person or is likely to disadvantage a person because they have one or more of the following protected attributes and which is not reasonable.

### **Protected attributes include:**

- age
- colour
- descent or national or ethnic origin
- disability/impairment
- industrial activity/inactivity
- lawful sexual activity/sexual orientation or preference
- gender identity
- marital status, including de facto
- physical features

### **Workplace discrimination can occur in:**

- political belief or activity
- pregnancy/breastfeeding
- race
- religious belief or activity
- sex
- status as a parent or carer
- personal association with someone of the above attributes
- irrelevant criminal conviction
- recruiting and selecting staff
- terms, conditions and benefits offered as part of employment
- who receives training and what sort of training is offered
- who is considered and selected for transfer, promotion, retrenchment or dismissal
- any other unfavourable treatment including harassment.

### **Ensuring Equal Opportunity in Recruitment and Selection**

A Liquid Future's recruitment approach reflects our core values, vision and mission. In the achievement of A Liquid Future's short and long term strategic goals, it is essential A Liquid Future find and attract suitable persons upholding merit based recruitment and selection practices. In addition, the following principles are reflected throughout the process:

- Designed to ensure the most suitable applicant is chosen for the role
- Transparent
- Timely and efficient
- Effective
- Equitable
- Free from conflict of interest

Disability needs to be reasonably accommodated in the workplace. For recruitment purposes, any identified disability requires A Liquid Future to consider whether A Liquid Future can reasonably accommodate the disability in the workplace, and to do so if this can be achieved.

As such, the overall merits of an applicant should be considered on the basis that reasonable adjustment will be applied to individuals with an identified disability (i.e. not the assessed ability without this adjustment).

### **Harassment**

A person unlawfully harasses another person if he or she makes that other person (another employee or member of the public) feel offended, humiliated or intimidated because of one of the protected attributes listed above. It may involve inappropriate actions, behaviour, comments or physical contact that is objectionable or causes offence.

Unlawful harassment may have occurred if the behaviour makes the victim feel:

- offended and humiliated
- intimidated or frightened
- uncomfortable at work

Examples of unlawful harassment can include behaviour such as:

- telling insulting jokes about particular protected attributes

- sending explicit or sexually suggestive emails
- displaying offensive or pornographic posters or screen savers
- making derogatory comments or taunts about someone's race or religion or protected attributes
- asking intrusive questions about someone's personal life, including their sex life.

## **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment occurs when a person makes an unwelcome sexual advance, or an unwelcome request for sexual favours to another person, or engages in any other unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature in relation to another person, in circumstances in which a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would have anticipated that the other person would be offended, humiliated or intimidated. Sexual harassment is unlawful under federal legislation (Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)).

Sexual harassment is unlawful in the workplace, which includes any place a person goes for the purpose of carrying out any function in relation to his/her employment. The workplace can also extend to social functions.

Some examples of sexual harassment include:

- persistent, unwelcome demands or even subtle pressures for sexual favours or outings
- staring or leering at a person or at parts of their body
- unwelcome patting, pinching, touching or unnecessary familiarity, such as unnecessarily brushing up against a person
- offensive comments or questions about a person's physical appearance, dress or private life
- sexually explicit pictures or posters or screen savers (words and images)
- sexually explicit telephone calls, letters, faxes, emails or voice mail messages
- humour such as smutty or suggestive jokes or comments
- innuendo, including sexually provocative remarks, suggestive or derogatory comments about a person's physical appearance, inferences of sexual morality, or tales of sexual performance
- requests for sex
- insults or taunts based on sex
- sexually explicit physical contact.

Some types of sexual harassment can also be offences under the criminal law, such as:

- physical molestation or assault
- indecent exposure
- sexual assault
- stalking
- obscene communications (by way of telephone calls, letters, emails etc.).

## **Bullying**

Bullying is a significant occupational health and safety issue, as it can cause harm to a person's health and wellbeing, both physical and psychological. Under the Federal Work Health and Safety Act 2011 **secure the health, safety and welfare of employees and other people at work**; protect the public from the health and safety risks of business activities; eliminate workplace risks at the source; and employers have a primary legal duty to provide a healthy and safe workplace.

Employees also have a responsibility to abide by safety standards and to cooperate with their employer's actions to ensure a healthy and safe workplace is maintained.

### **What is bullying?**

Is repeated, unreasonable behaviour directed toward an employee, or group of employees, that creates a risk to health and safety. Workplace bullying includes behaviour outside the workplace, including threats, if it relates to work.

### **What is not bullying?**

Reasonable management action carried out in a reasonable manner.

**"Unreasonable behaviour"** means behaviour that a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would expect to victimise, humiliate, undermine or threaten the other person.

**"Behaviour"** includes actions of individuals or a group, and may involve using a system of work as a means of victimising, humiliating, undermining, punishing or threatening.

**"Risk to health and safety"** includes risk to the mental or physical health of the employee.

Workplace bullying can occur between a worker and a manager or supervisor, or between co-workers. The following types of behaviour, where repeated or occurring as part of a pattern of behaviour could be considered to be workplace bullying:

- physical or verbal abuse (yelling, screaming or offensive language)
- intimidation
- excluding or isolating employees
- psychological harassment
- assigning meaningless tasks unrelated to the job
- making malicious, frivolous or vexatious rumors about a person with an intent to cause the person harm
- undermining work performance by deliberately withholding information vital for effective work performance

**Reasonable management actions** are comprised of three elements:

- the behaviour must be management action
- it must be reasonable for the management action to be taken, and
- the management action must be carried out in a manner that is reasonable.

Bullying **does not** cover situations where it constitutes reasonable management action:

- performance management processes
- ongoing meetings to address underperformance or behaviours
- counselling or disciplining a worker for misconduct
- modifying a worker's duties including by transferring or deploying the worker
- investigating alleged misconduct
- allocation of work in compliance with systems and policies
- implementation of organisational change or downsizing

### **Victimisation**

Under the Victorian Equal Opportunity Act 2010 (Vic), it is unlawful for a person to subject or to threaten to subject another person to any detriment because the other

person, or someone associated with the other person, has made an allegation or complaint of discrimination, harassment or bullying on the basis of a protected attribute.

## **Resolution of Disputes and Issues of Concern**

It is in the interest of any person or group who believe they have been unlawfully discriminated against, sexually harassed, bullied or victimised to take action to prevent the behaviour from recurring. If you consider you have been discriminated against, bullied or harassed it should be dealt with and should not be ignored as ignoring the behaviour could be taken as tacit consent.

A Liquid Future believes that all disputes and issues of concern should be resolved quickly, confidentially (where possible) and wherever possible, at the lowest appropriate level, with ongoing monitoring. A range of informal and formal resolution options are available including:

i. Informal:

- a. Inform the offender that the behaviour is offensive and unacceptable
- b. Resolve by consent through mediation and conciliation with support by the immediate manager or human resources.

ii. Formal:

- a. Formal resolution by immediate manager/team leader/human resources
- b. Initiate RedR's Grievance Policy and procedures
- c. Formal investigation/assessment by either HR or external provider.

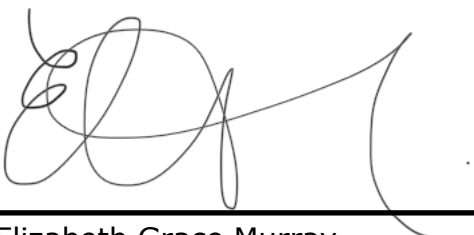
## **External Resources**

Employees who believe they are being bullied in the workplace may apply to the Fair Work Commission (FWC) to have the matter heard via mediation, conference or hearing. In addition to the above listed, you may approach the Fair Work Ombudsman for independent advice.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

A Liquid Future is committed to providing an environment which is safe and free of discrimination, harassment and bullying for our employees and others with whom we associate at work. This policy has the full support and commitment of management.

I acknowledge I have received, read and understood the Equal Opportunity, Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Bullying policy:



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Elizabeth Grace Murray  
(CEO)



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Rory Gollow  
(Director)



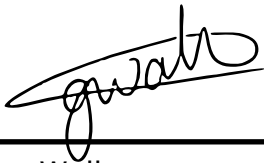
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