

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY - MENTORING

PURPOSE

Sparkways Mentoring recognises the importance of environmental sustainability for the health and wellbeing of our community and future generations. We are committed to minimising our environmental impact and promoting sustainable practices in all aspects of our program

This policy will provide guidelines to assist Sparkways to take an active role in caring for the environment, and promoting and contributing to a sustainable future

POLICY STATEMENT


GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Sparkways is committed to:

- supporting the development of positive attitudes and values in line with sustainable practices
- integrating a philosophy of sustainability in its activities and standards
- embedding and promoting sound environmental practices in all operations, services and activities
- fostering responsible, sustainable and climate-conscious decisions and behaviours among staff, volunteers, young people and families
- to apply a sustainability lens to its activities and operations and to consider, find and implement meaningful ways to minimise its impact on the environment and contribute to solutions that seek to limit climate change

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Sparkways staff, volunteer mentors, young people and parent/guardians (where applicable)

 RESPONSIBILITIES	Sparkways Mentoring Staff	Volunteer Mentor	Young Person	Parent / Guardian
<p>Minimise the adverse environmental impacts of the Mentoring program by improving the efficiency of resource consumption and the selection and use of appropriate materials, processes, equipment and services, such as but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing waste by using reusable or biodegradable materials wherever possible • Limit printing and use digital versions of documentation when available • Recycle any unwanted materials such as paper, cardboard etc and/or look for any recycling options available for unwanted items before discarding in the general waste • Donate any unwanted items that are still in usable condition • Where possible reuse and recycle materials, purchase recycled materials and use recyclable packaging or other similar materials • promote energy efficiency by turning off lights and electronics when not in use and by using natural light and ventilation as much as possible 	X			
<p>Avoiding the use of products and practices that contribute to climate change, while promoting and favouring the use of products and practices that are climate-neutral or have positive impacts on the environment, wherever possible</p>	X			
<p>When planning Activity days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible, book activities with venues that have sustainable practices and values and that are easily accessible by public transport • Encourage the use of public transport or car pool where possible • Encourage all participants to bring reusable water bottles and to avoid single-use plastic products during program activities • Limit food waste by not over purchasing and try to avoid the use of products packaged in single use plastics • Encourage any left-over food to be taken home and/or discarded in compost or council collection green bins 	X	X	X	X
<p>Suggest and/or provide educational opportunities for mentors and young people to learn about environmental sustainability and ways to reduce their environmental impact.</p>	X	X		

Implement practices to ensure all staff are aware of their role and responsibility in fulfilling and sustaining this policy	X			
Conduct self-assessments to track compliance with this policy, in order to continually improve our environmental sustainability practices	X			



BACKGROUND AND LEGISLATION

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

Relevant legislation and standards include but are not limited to:

- Privacy Act 1988(Cth)
- Information Privacy Act 2000(Vic)
- Victorian Child Safe Standards
- Social Services Regulatory Scheme and Standards
- Children, Youth and Families Act 2005
- Children and Health Legislation Amendment (Statement of Recognition, Aboriginal Self-Determination and Other Matters) Act 2023

The most current amendments to listed legislation can be found at:

Victorian Legislation – Victorian Law Today: www.legislation.vic.gov.au
 Commonwealth Legislation – Federal Register of Legislation: www.legislation.gov.au



DEFINITIONS

Sustainability – Encompasses sustainability of the environment, ecology, people and economy



SOURCES AND RELATED POLICIES

RELATED POLICIES

- Young Person Safety Policy (also known as Child Safe Policy)



EVALUATION

In order to assess whether the values and purposes of the policy have been achieved, Sparkways will:

- seek feedback from people affected by the policy regarding its effectiveness
- monitor the implementation, compliance, complaints and incidents in relation to this policy
- keep the policy up to date with current legislation, research, policy and best practice
- revise the policy and procedures as part of the service's policy review cycle, or as required



AUTHORISATION

This policy was endorsed by Sparkways on 14 August 2024

REVIEW DUE: August 2025
