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Purpose

To outline the procedural steps relevant to SANITI's Working with Young People under 16 years of age Policy.

Organisational Scope

SANITI Staff; Executive; NMIT students

Definitions

- **"SANITI"** means the Student Association Nelson-Marlborough Institute of Technology Incorporated.
- **"Young Persons"** "Young People" as defined by the Human Rights Act 1993 as all persons under 18 years of age. In this context it is specific to those under 16.

Working with persons aged 15

- At 15 years old, a young person as defined by Youthlaw (2024) is considered a minor. In a tertiary education setting, persons of this age cannot make decisions about their health/wellbeing and education without the consent of a parent or guardian.
- When working with 15-year old's, the young person needs to be kept updated and informed about decisions being made about them and can choose whether to present at meetings or involved in communication.
- At 15 their parent or guardian can act on their behalf.

Working with persons aged 16 and older

- At 16 years old, a young person as defined by Youthlaw (2004) is no longer a minor and can give consent and make decisions about their life including health/wellbeing and education.
- When working with persons aged 16, they must be at the forefront of communications. This includes being present at all meetings and being included in all correspondence about them. The only exception to this is in regard to Studylink or MSD. See Appendix A for details.

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- The young person will need to give their own written consent for exchange of information.
- The parent or guardian cannot act on their behalf.

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APPENDIX 1:

STUDYLINK AND MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

SANITI holds an agency agreement with StudyLink and MSD. With the student's signed consent, SANITI can contact StudyLink or MSD on the student's behalf.

For more information see [Agents - StudyLink](#) and [Having someone act on your behalf - Work and Income](#).

APPENDIX 2:

YOUTHLAW

Youth Law is legal information for youth and young people on their rights in New Zealand. [YouthLaw Aotearoa](#)

Youthlaw. (2024, October 30). Legal Ages. Youthlaw. [Legal Ages Archives - YouthLaw](#)

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