

Protected Disclosures

6.7

Rationale

The *Protected Disclosures Act 2000* gives a legal right to complainants to have their identity protected when making a complaint or disclosure of wrongdoing. The Waiuku College Board of Trustees ensures procedures are in place to meet the requirements of the act.

Requirements

1. Persons who believe they have information that a serious wrongdoing is occurring (or may occur) within the school have the right to make a protected disclosure to the principal.
2. This can be done verbally or in writing. The person should identify that the disclosure is being made under the *Protected Disclosures Act* and should provide detail of the complaint (disclosure), and who the complaint is against.
3. If it is believed that the principal is involved in the wrongdoing, or has an association with the person committing the wrongdoing that would make it inappropriate to disclose to them, then the disclosure can be made to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees.
4. The Principal or the Chairperson can decide:
 - (a) To investigate the disclosure themselves
 - (b) To forward the disclosure to the board or a committee of the board to investigate
 - (c) Whether it needs to be passed on to an **appropriate authority**. If it goes to an appropriate authority they will advise you that they are now investigating the complaint.
5. If it is believed that both the principal and the chairperson of the board of trustees may be a party to the wrongdoing or in close relationship with the person/s involved in the wrongdoing then an approach can be made to an external "appropriate authority". This could be the head of any relevant public sector organisation and includes:
 - (i) the Commissioner of Police:
 - (ii) the Controller and Auditor-General:
 - (iii) the Director of the Serious Fraud Office:
 - (iv) the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security:
 - (v) an Ombudsman:
 - (vi) the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment:
 - (vii) the Police Complaints Authority:
 - (viii) the Solicitor-General:
 - (ix) the State Services Commissioner:
 - (x) the Health and Disability Commissioner.