

Canberra Dance Theatre

Working with Vulnerable People Policy



Overview

1. This policy outlines the obligations that Canberra Dance Theatre (CDT) and its employees, contractors and volunteers have in relation to working with vulnerable people.

Working with vulnerable people registration

2. Any CDT employee, contractor or volunteer working directly in CDTribe classes must hold a current Australian Capital Territory (ACT) working with vulnerable people (WWVP) registration; and hold a current WWVP registration prior to their first engagement in CDTribe work.
3. Any CDT employee, contractor or volunteer working directly in dance classes other than CDTribe must hold a current ACT WWVP registration, if CDT expects that they will be engaged for a period greater than three days in any four week period, or seven days in any 12 month period.
4. CDT employees, contractors or volunteers within the scope of this policy are required to provide evidence of current WWVP registration to CDT (i.e. a copy of their WWVP card).

Background

5. The *Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act 2011* (ACT) defines vulnerable people as children under 18 years of age, or adults who are disadvantaged and accessing a regulated activity. In the current CDT context, CDTribe students primarily meet this definition of vulnerable people. Some CDT classes may also have participants under the age of 18, or participants with disabilities.
6. People with coincidental engagement with vulnerable people, such as an administration staff managing bookings for a class but not providing other direct services such as teaching, are not required to hold a WWVP registration.

Reporting obligations

7. Any adult, if they have a reasonable belief that a sexual offence has been committed against a child, must report this to the ACT Police as soon as reasonably practicable, in accordance with section 66AA of the *Crimes Act 1900* (ACT).
8. Any adult may make a voluntary report to ACT Government Child and Youth Protection Services under the *Children and Young People Act 2008* (ACT), if they suspect a child is being abused, neglected, exposed to family violence or at risk of abuse or neglect.
9. CDT employees, contractors or volunteers are not mandated reporters under the *Children and Young People Act 2008* (ACT). The obligation to report suspected cases of child sexual abuse to the Police, or the ability to voluntarily report to Child and Youth Protection Services, is the same as for any other adult in the ACT.