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Safety and Security Arrangements

Introduction

The teaching model used by the Adelaide Central School of Art (the 'School') involves students working 'hands-on' in a range of potentially hazardous environments where they may need to use equipment and power tools or be exposed to chemicals (such as solvents). Accordingly, the need for a strong personal safety culture together with effective safety systems is paramount. In addition, as the School offers night classes and has mainly female students, security is also an important consideration.

At its Norwood premises where it had been for many years, security and safety systems were well established. The move to new premises at Glenside in early 2013 has required a new approach to security, in particular, and has provided an opportunity to develop a safer teaching environment in purpose designed studios. The safety and security arrangements are discussed in more detail below.

Student Safety

The School's 2013 Student Handbook (see pages 26 – 28 of <http://www.acsa.sa.edu.au/school/documents/2013StudentHandbook.pdf>) describe the range of health and safety arrangements that apply at the School. These are backed up with policies, procedures and guidelines that are accessible to all students. Many of these arrangements reflect the unique aspects of the School's teaching model including, taking care when using solvents, wearing protective clothing and proper footwear in class, and ensuring electrical tools and equipment are in good order and are properly used.

In the same section of the 2013 Student Handbook more general advice is provided about site safety, emergencies and first aid, and student responsibilities to themselves and each other. The Handbook also alerts students to some of the specific hazards that might be encountered at the School including moving easels with work on them, using pigments containing toxic substances, using other toxic or corrosive chemicals in print making classes, and protecting outside sculpture installations from becoming obstructions or trip hazards. To demonstrate the potential for creating safety hazards through the development of student art, the following extract from the 2013 Student Handbook (page 28) is instructive:

'Students and lecturers must obtain administrative approval for any projects that could pose a physical or emotional risk to anyone within the School grounds. This includes installations that may obstruct the passage of student traffic, presentations that may offend, or projects that may breach occupational, health and safety rules.'

To reduce the potential hazards from inhaling potentially hazardous fumes, the exhaust and extraction systems fitted in the studios all comply with The Australian Standard on 'The storage and handling of flammable and combustible liquids' (AS 1940-2004). High quality lighting and an emphasis on tidiness ensures that the new studios at Glenside are a very safe teaching environment. More generally, improved signage and a greater emphasis on avoiding hazards around the School has resulted in the Glenside campus being a safer environment than the previous campus at Norwood.

As an added safety requirement, only tested and tagged electrical equipment can be used on campus. The School arranges the testing and tagging of all School and student personal electrical equipment each year.

Due to the range of tools and equipment used in the sculpture workshop with the associated potential hazards to individuals, a special induction program is run for sculpture students. No student is allowed to access these areas without having done the induction program and this is enforced by programming electronic access cards accordingly. More generally, individual lecturers provide safety briefings and notes for students for their different classes and the safety culture is enforced by strict adherence to safety rules and standards. For example, students who are not wearing the correct personal protective equipment for a class will not be allowed to participate in that class.

Security

The move to new premises at Glenside provided an opportunity to improve security arrangements. A new electronic card system has been introduced for staff and students, and extensive external lighting has been installed to improve access and egress to the buildings and parking areas.

As the School offers evening classes, security officers have been secured to monitor the site from 5:30 pm on the days when these classes are held, with a patrol officer on hand between 9:45 and 10:15 pm when students leave the area at the conclusion of their class.

After-hours use of the School facilities by students is a common situation. To ensure the safety and security of students on these occasions, the 2013 Student Handbook (page 28) includes the following instruction:

‘When working after hours, students must always keep the building/studio/workshop doors locked. It is strongly advised that students work with another student or at least notify a staff member of their location. Students are not permitted to work in the studios outside school hours unless there is a member of staff on site.’