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Feedback and Complaints

Feedback is an important tool to help us improve what we offer and how we offer it. Your feedback can be helpful to us, your fellow students, and future students too. If you have a complaint because you feel we are doing something incorrectly, please follow these policies and procedures. You can also find them at www.nasa.co.nz/complaints/

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Feedback

Feedback helps us improve what we offer and how we offer it. Your feedback can be helpful to us, your fellow ākonga / students, and future ākonga / students too.

Feedback is different from a complaint because feedback can be less formal in nature and can usually add value or produce positive discussions around how to improve the experience for both us and our ākonga / students.

Our team is small, and we operate in certain ways, bound by previous or current regulations set on us by both New Zealand based and internationally based governing bodies. Sometimes, though, these regulations are no longer valid or current but have somehow become embedded in our organisation and may need us to look at them with a critical lens.

Our student body is made up of ākonga / students from a wide range of experiences, and sometimes those experiences have been extremely positive. If you feel your positive experience could help us improve the way we do things, we are more than happy to hear about it.

If you have feedback you'd like to give, feel free to:

- Come see one of us in at a quiet time to have a chat about it. (Please make an appointment first to ensure we are free and can devote our attention to you.) Please ensure you see the person responsible for what you're giving feedback on.
- Flick us an email with your ideas.
- Text us or call us and have a conversation around it.
- Discuss it with the student council member for your class to bring up at the next student council meeting.

We also seek out feedback through:

- Programme evaluations (usually mid-year and end-of-year)
- Employment surveys
- Student council meetings
- Direct discussions with students on particular matters

In contrast, a complaint usually:

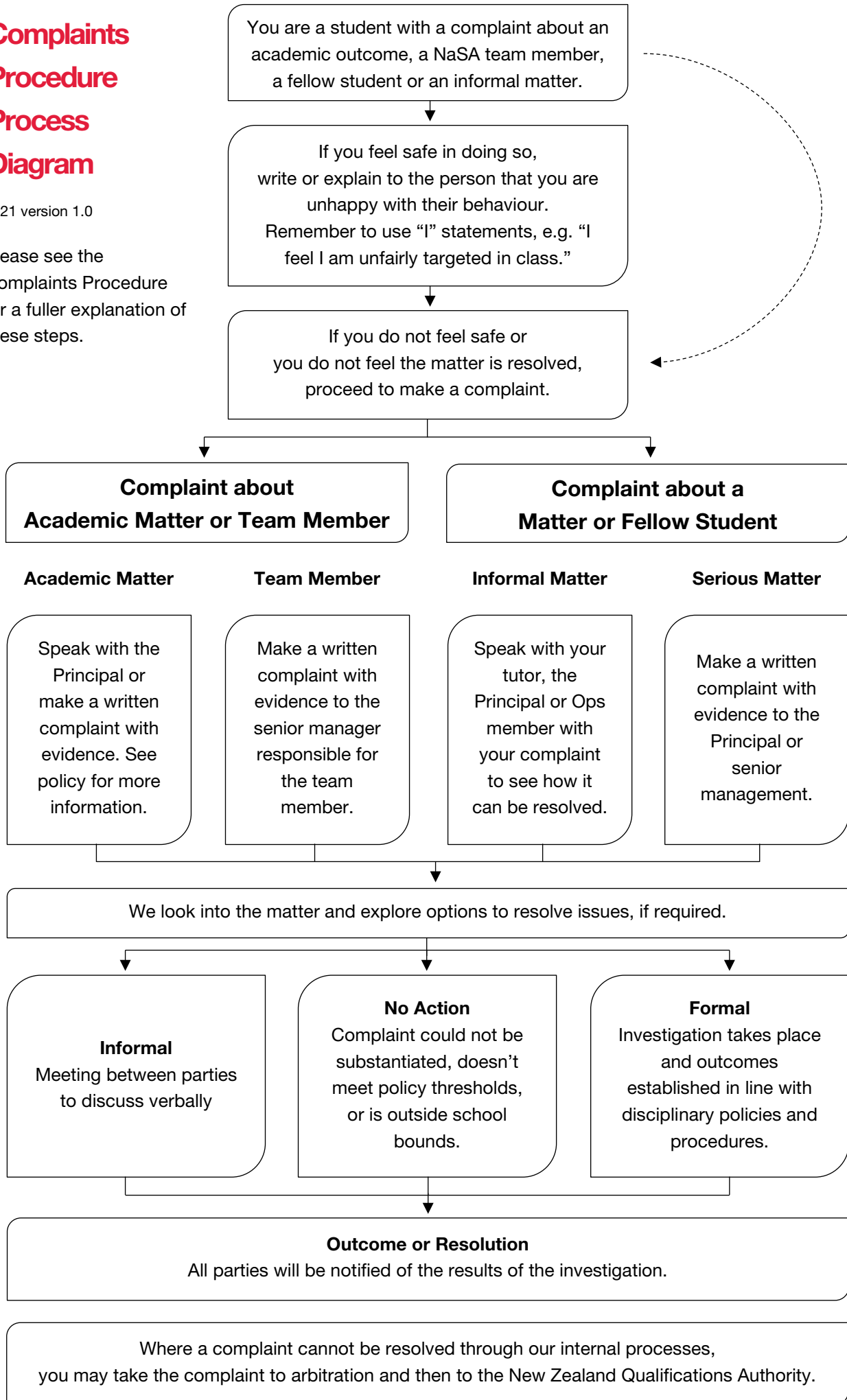
- Comes from a person without prompting; and
- Seeks to correct a specific perceived wrong or voices dissatisfaction with a specific person or event.

If you have a complaint, please see the Complaints Procedure.

**Complaints
Procedure
Process
Diagram**

2021 version 1.0

Please see the Complaints Procedure for a fuller explanation of these steps.



Complaints Procedure

Please see www.nasa.co.nz/complaints/ for the most current version of this procedure.

This procedure fleshes out the steps supplied in the [Complaints Procedure Process Diagram](#).

If you want helpful external advice on working with an education provider to resolve a complaint, we highly recommend reading NZQA's [Concerns about an education provider page](#) on their Web site.

Before You Go Through the Complaints Procedure

- If you feel safe in doing so, write or explain to the person that you are unhappy with their behaviour.
 - Many complaints can be resolved easily by merely talking with the person or people involved.
 - Remember to use “I” statements, e.g. “I feel I am unfairly targeted in class.” Using “I” statements helps people be more responsive to criticism and complaints that way, and therefore it can make things easier to solve.
- If you do not feel safe or do not feel the matter is resolved, proceed to make a complaint.

Your class's student council member may be able to help by bringing up certain issues at their quarterly student council meeting. Subjects that they can discuss are:

- The health and well-being of the overall ākonga / student population (in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 and its subsequent amendments)
- Timetabling
- Assessments (not the results or experiences of an individual ākonga / student but overall class or student results or experiences)
- Facilities
- Health and safety concerns
- Lesson delivery

Complaints should be made as close to the time of the event as possible to ensure the evidence you and we gather is fresh.

- We accept no liability or responsibility for complaints not made through the complaints procedure or complaints made after one month after:
 - You have completed your programme; or
 - The scheduled finishing date of the programme; or
 - You have withdrawn from the programme: whichever comes first for you.

Types of Complaints

Complaint or Dispute about an Academic Matter

If you have a complaint about an academic matter, please see the procedures below to see how to progress. These procedures vary depending on whether your dispute or complaint is informal or formal.

Examples of complaints about academic matters:

- You feel your grade does not reflect the true nature of your performance during an assessment.
- You feel you were somehow disadvantaged during the assessment and would like that taken into consideration.
- You feel your answer on a written test was correct even though another answer was given as the correct answer.

Informal Complaint or Dispute about an Academic Matter

If you have an informal complaint or dispute about an academic matter, you should:

1. See the tutor responsible or the Principal and arrange a time and date to meet to discuss the matter.
2. Meet with the tutor responsible or the Principal at the time and date arranged to discuss your complaint or dispute
 - a. You may wish to write or outline your complaint or dispute down prior to the meeting. This will help you focus your thoughts on the matter and help us understand it better.
3. See the "Types of Investigations" section for the next part of the process.

We envisage most complaints and disputes about academic matters can be resolved at this stage.

Formal Complaint or Dispute about an Academic Matter

If you have a formal complaint or dispute about an academic matter, you should:

1. Put that complaint in writing.
 - a. It cannot be anonymous because we may need to check back with you on any areas we are unsure about. (We will attempt to maintain your privacy.)
 - b. It cannot be verbal due to the serious nature of the complaint.
 - c. You should ensure the complaint contains all relevant information. Once we receive the complaint, you cannot expand or enlarge it. This helps us focus on the matter(s) at hand in the complaint.
2. Ensure you have evidence or examples to back-up your claims.
3. Give that complaint to the Principal.
4. See the "Types of Investigations" section for the next part of the process.

If the matter is something that can be resolved informally, we will suggest that solution first and foremost.

Complaint about a Team Member

If you have a complaint about a team member, you must:

1. Put that complaint in writing.
 - a. It cannot be anonymous because we may need to check back with you on any areas we are unsure about. (We will attempt to maintain your privacy.)
 - b. It cannot be verbal due to the serious nature of the complaint.
2. Ensure you have evidence or examples to back-up your claims.
3. Give that complaint to the person in charge of that team member.
 - a. Complaint about a beauty therapy tutor? Submit to the principal.
 - b. Complaint about a nail technology tutor? Submit to the principal.
 - c. Complaint about an ops team member? Submit to the CEO.
 - d. Complaint about a director? Submit to another director or the CEO.
4. See the “Types of Investigations” section for the next part of the process.

If the matter is something that can be resolved by you and the team member speaking about it face-to-face, we will suggest that solution first and foremost.

Complaint about an Informal Matter

If you have a complaint about an informal matter, you should:

1. Speak with your tutor, the Principal or Ops team member to see how it can be resolved.
 - a. Please make sure it is a team member who can help you best.
2. See the “Types of Investigations” section for the next part of the process.

Examples of complaints about an informal matter include:

- Every time you use a certain sink, it seems to be clogged.
- Another ākongā / student keeps leaving her bag on the Great Hall floor instead of in a cubby hole.
- Two ākongā / students in your class keep pairing up together, not allowing others to work on them.

Most complaints should fall under this category.

Complaint about a Serious Matter

If you have a complaint about a serious matter, you should:

1. Put that complaint in writing.
 - a. It cannot be anonymous because we may need to check back with you on any areas we are unsure about. (We will attempt to maintain your privacy.)
 - b. It cannot be verbal due to the serious nature of the complaint.
2. Ensure you have evidence or examples to back-up your claims.
3. Give that complaint to the Principal or a member of senior management.
4. See the “Types of Investigations” section for the next part of the process.

Examples of complaints of a serious matter include:

- A classmate of yours has bullied or harassed you or a classmate in a sustained way. (Example: You’ve spoken with the classmate, and no resolution has come from that.)
- You feel a part of the building is unsafe, and previous conversations have not led to an definitive outcome.
- You feel a specific rule, regulation, policy or procedure is having, or has had, an adverse effect on your time studying with us (within reason).

If the complaint is about alleged criminal activity, we may pass that complaint on to the New Zealand Police or appropriate authorities.

If You Feel We Are Failing to Meet the Outcomes or Requirements of the Tertiary and International Learners Code of Practice

If you feel we are failing to meet the outcomes or requirements of the Tertiary and International Learners Code of Practice, you should follow the Complaints Procedure under “Complaint about a Serious Matter” through to the resolution or clarification.

Types of Investigations

We look into the matter and explore options to resolve the issue(s), if required.

Where the complaint is informal and can be easily resolved at the time, we may skip the investigation stage and come to an outcome or resolution.

- If your complaint is informal and can be easily resolved at the time, see the "Outcome or Resolution" section for the next part of the process.

Informal Investigation

If we feel the complaint would be best resolved by meeting face-to-face and discussing the issue(s) raised, we will set up a meeting between the parties and try to talk out a resolution.

- See the "Outcome or Resolution" section for the next part of the process.

No Action

Sometimes, we might be unable to take any action on the complaint. This may happen when:

- We cannot substantiate the complaint (we cannot find any matching evidence to confirm the complaint).
- The complaint does not meet our policy thresholds.
- The complaint is about something outside of the school we have no control over.
- See the "Outcome or Resolution" section for the next part of the process.

Formal Investigation

If we feel the complaint is serious, we should:

- Investigate the complaint and its allegations.
- Act in line with our established policies and procedures if the complaint is found to be valid.
- See the "Outcome or Resolution" section for the next part of the process.

Outcome or Resolution

We should notify all parties with the outcome(s) or resolution(s) to the matter. This can be as simple as verbally confirming the outcome where the complaint is informal or a written letter, e-mail, or report if the complaint is complex or formal.

- If you are not satisfied with the outcome or resolution proposed, see the “If You Are Not Satisfied with the Outcome” section for further actions you may take.

Please note that formal complaints will be recorded, and information on those complaints will be compiled in an annual report. The annual report should be published on our Web site. People and organisations who will be able to see this report include, but are not limited to:

- Management and potentially our team members
- Ākonga / Students via our Web site
- Other stakeholders, when and where required
- The Code administrator

We also may seek:

- Your experience with the complaints procedure
- Your experience with the outcome of your complaint

If You Are Not Satisfied with the Outcome

You have a process to follow if you are not satisfied with the outcome.

1. You can ask for a reconsideration if you have further evidence that could support your complaint or you feel could change the outcome of your complaint.
 - a. If your complaint was informal, you can escalate this by making it a formal complaint (in writing) to the appropriate team member.
 - b. If your complaint was formal, please submit further evidence in writing.
 - c. This basically follows the same process as established in this procedure.
 - d. Reconsiderations should only be undertaken where the process appears not to be followed or the decision appears to be contrary to or unsupported by the evidence.

If you are not satisfied by the outcome of our complaints process, you may be able to raise your concerns externally. The New Zealand Qualifications Authority's [website](#) provides useful information about the avenues available to you.