

COLLEGE OF INTEGRATED CHINESE MEDICINE

FREEDOM OF SPEECH POLICY

1. Policy Statement

The College values diversity and is committed to the principles of academic freedom and freedom of speech and expression. It believes that an atmosphere of tolerance is essential to enable open discussion and to debate a wide variety of ideas, some of which may be controversial.

This Policy is issued in accordance with section 43 of the Education [No 2] Act 1986 for the following purposes:

- To identify the reasonably practicable steps that must be taken to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for all College members and visitors; and
- To specify arrangements for the management of meetings and events on College Premises.

2. Responsibilities

The Principal is responsible for the freedom of speech policy.

3. Policy: Freedom of Speech

So far as is reasonably practicable, the College premises shall not be denied to any individual or body of persons on any grounds connected with:

- The beliefs or views of that individual or body; or
- The policy or objectives of that individual or body.

This policy extends to ensuring academic freedom within the law for all College members without the risk of disciplinary proceedings. No person to whom this Policy applies shall take any action to prevent any academic activity because of the views held or expressed by a College member.

Free speech is a qualified privilege subject to the limits imposed by law including those governing the protection of national security; health and safety; prevention of crime; charities; human rights; equality and discrimination and the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. The College will therefore refuse the holding of any activity where it reasonably believes:

- It is likely to incite a breach of the law;
- It is likely to lead to an expression of views which are contrary to the law;
- It is likely to promote or support an illegal organisation including any proscribed organisation; or
- It is in the interests of public safety, the prevention of disorder or crime, or the protection of those persons lawfully on College premises; or
- The views being expressed, or likely to be expressed, constitute extremist views that risk drawing people into terrorism or are shared by terrorist groups save where such risk can be effectively mitigated without cancellation of the event.

The College expects members and visitors to abide by its values.

4. Compliance

4.1 Failure to comply with this policy may result in one or more of the following measures:

- Implementation of the College's disciplinary procedures.
- Suspected or actual breaches of the law will be reported to the police or appropriate authorised body. Any disciplinary proceedings may be stayed pending the outcome of any criminal proceedings.
- The member or a visitor may be excluded from the College for a specified period.
- Any other measures the College deems appropriate.