



Rosa Veritas

PROTOCOL

Ethics Committee Liaison

Effective 1 June 2022

Purpose

This protocol enables a response to be provided in the Dutch language to anyone reporting abuse in the Rosa Veritas community in the Netherlands. It also meets the Dutch government requirement that people reporting abuse are responded to in their native language.

This protocol sets out the role, qualities and responsibilities of an appointed Ethics Committee Liaison (ECL) person.

Introduction

Rosa Veritas is established under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015* (Western Australia) and is recognised as a religious denomination by the Commonwealth of Australia. Rosa Veritas is also located in Aotearoa New Zealand and in the Netherlands.

Rosa Veritas is committed to fulfilling its responsibility to conduct its organisation ethically and safely and to making its Meriti, Priests, Deacons, office-holders, members, employees and volunteers

aware of and accountable for their individual and corporate responsibilities.

Rosa Veritas does not tolerate or condone child abuse, racism or other discrimination. All members of Rosa Veritas are responsible for the care and protection of vulnerable persons and children and for reporting information about suspected or observed abuse, racism or other discrimination.

The Law applicable in the State of Victoria, Australia, has been adopted as the benchmark upon which Rosa Veritas bases its documentation, policy and procedures. This legislation is currently regarded as the most progressive available.

In Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, matters of abuse, suspected abuse or discrimination are managed directly by the Ethics and Safety Committee. As the first language of the people of the Netherlands is Dutch, the Rosa Veritas community in the Netherlands requires a suitable person

be appointed to liaise with the Ethics and Safety Committee. The liaison person, fluent in Dutch and English, can receive complaints and provide a timely response in Dutch.

Responsibilities to the Meriti

The senior Meritus is the head of the organisation with certain legally mandated responsibilities, including: receiving reportable allegations, investigating and reporting allegations according to law and they may also investigate and take appropriate action in locations where there is no reportable conduct scheme.

The senior Meritus is also required to ensure that there are systems in place that seek to prevent reportable conduct from being committed; enable reportable allegations to be made to the senior Meritus; and enable reportable allegations that involve the senior Meritus to be reported to the Victorian Commission for Children and Young People or other relevant authority

The senior Meritus is also responsible for ensuring there are suitable procedures in place to give effect to all the policies and protocols of Rosa Veritas.

The senior Meritus may appoint an ECL person in the Netherlands to assist the Ethics and Safety Committee and the senior Meritus with the implementation of Rosa Veritas' Ethics and Safety policy and procedures in that country. This is to ensure that any and all allegations of abuse of a child or a vulnerable adult or discrimination in the Netherlands community is responded to in accordance with the Ethics and Safety Policy in an appropriate and timely fashion.

Role of the ECL

The ECL's role includes the following:

- Maintaining familiarity with Rosa Veritas' published Ethics and Safety policy and procedures;
- Being willing to regularly monitor a dedicated email address on the

Rosa Veritas website in the Netherlands;

- Being available to receive allegations of abuse or discrimination against members of Rosa Veritas in the Netherlands;
- Providing information about Rosa Veritas' published policy and procedures to any person making an allegation;
- Informing the Ethics and Safety Committee immediately there is a complaint made to the ECL of an allegation of abuse or discrimination;
- Being available to assist the Ethics and Safety Committee and the senior Meritus as required, with interpreting, translating and responding as directed;
- Refraining from personally investigating or commenting on any allegation;
- Understanding that the role of the ECL is not to take independent action in responding to any allegation, except for reporting to the Police in cases where there is an immediate threat to the safety of a child or vulnerable person.
- Referring any allegation promptly to the Ethics and Safety Committee and to take direction from that committee and the senior Meritus in dealing with the allegation.
- Undertaking any reasonable action as directed by the Ethics and Safety Committee and the senior Meritus;
- Maintaining absolute confidentiality in relation to any suspected, alleged or proven instances of abuse of a child or vulnerable adult

or discrimination that is brought to his or her attention. The only persons with whom the allegations or proven behaviours may be discussed are:

- Police, in cases where there is an immediate threat to the safety of a child or vulnerable person
- The Meriti, in all cases of alleged abuse of a child or vulnerable adult, or discrimination
- Members of the Ethics and Safety Committee.

Responsibilities to the Rosa Veritas Netherlands Community

The ECL is the designated contact person in the Netherlands community in situations where abuse or discrimination is suspected or alleged.

The ECL has the responsibility for ensuring that children and vulnerable people alleging abuse and reportable conduct are responded to sensitively, appropriately and in a manner that is consistent with Rosa Veritas' policy and procedures.

Qualities

The liaison role is a complex one and the ECL will be:

- Independent and able to stand alone and think clearly;
- Empathetic and able to express empathy;
- Non-judgemental and able to listen to difficult subject matter without being influenced by it;
- Able to take direction from the Ethics and Safety Committee and the Meriti;
- Able to adhere to the constraints of the liaison role as defined in this Protocol;
- Discreet and able to maintain strict confidentiality;
- Fluent in written and spoken Dutch and English;

- Competent in using contemporary information and communication technology and communication internationally by digital means.

This Protocol

This Protocol is approved and adopted by the Meriti. It may be added to, altered or rescinded by the Meriti.

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