

Respect Adviser FAQs

Please read the below information to help answer questions you may have about the Respect Adviser Network

Why was the Respect Adviser Network established?

The Network was introduced as a pilot program to address gaps in early and informal support while also encouraging safe disclosure of sexual harm.

The model was informed by evidence based programs used widely across other universities.

Are Respect Advisers counselors?

Respect Advisers are not counselors or mental health professionals. They are a first point of contact to provide informal support to students and connect them with external services as needed.

What types of issues can Respect Advisers help with?

Respect Advisers support students with concerns relating to interpersonal conflict, respectful behaviour, disputes, and serious unacceptable behaviour such as harassment, bullying or sexual harm.

Respect Advisers help students to navigate the next steps by helping students to understand the available supports and services and reporting pathways for their concern.

More serious and complex matters are referred directly to SCU.

What training do Respect Advisers have?

Respect Advisers are comprehensively trained to manage disclosures in a trauma informed, empathetic and confidential manner, while establishing clear boundaries when meeting with students.

Respect Advisers continue to participate in ongoing training, supervision and reflective practice in their roles and access a peer support network to support their own wellbeing.

The Respect Adviser network is also provided with a detailed handbook that guides them in assessing the severity of an incident and identifying the appropriate support pathways. Severe and complex cases will be referred directly to SCU.

Do Respect Advisers receive Mental Health First Aid training?

Most current Respect Advisers have completed Mental health First Aid training. It is highly encouraged and resourcing is in place to ensure all advisers have the opportunity to train in MHFA.

How are role boundaries and expectations managed?

Respect Advisers clearly explain the scope and limits of their role when meeting with students. Respect Advisers are given a handbook that provides structured guidance on how to establish boundaries and expectations from the outset to ensure consistent practice that protects both students and staff.

What happens if a student discloses a serious issue?

Serious or complex issues will always be referred to SCU. Respect Advisers can assist with making that connection and will follow their handbook's guidance.

Do Respect Advisers liaise with faculty staff?

No. Facilitating conversations between students and faculty falls outside the scope of the Respect Adviser role. Faculty related concerns will be passed onto SCU.

What support is available for Respect Advisers?

Respect Advisers have access to professional supervision, support from the SCU team and peer networking, all supporting safe and sustainable engagement in the role.

