May, 2014

Incident reporting

I want to raise the issue of late reporting of incidents with the whole campus community and the possibility that some members of the campus community may not be making any reports at all.

Over the last 12 months, we have become increasingly concerned about a small number of late reports being made by female members of the campus community who have either been stalked or felt intimidated - on or adjacent to the campus. These late reports have sometimes been up to four weeks after the event. It may well be the case that some students or staff may not be reporting their experiences at all to either UOW Security or the Police.

This trend of late reporting or under reporting is of significant concern to me, as the Manager Security, and to our local Police. We would like to change attitudes and encourage victims to report immediately. Towards the end of this note I will detail the methods on how to report.

We understand that sometimes victims may not wish to be involved as a witness or give evidence in Court. We can respect a victim's decision about these aspects, but we would still like to hear about a bad experience so that it can be properly analysed and acted upon. We also need to be satisfied that the victim is supported, directed to professional assistance or has reached out for assistance they may need elsewhere.

We also understand that sometimes people may think they are reporting a trivial event and that they are wasting our time, or that of the local Police. In some cases we recognise that the victims do not feel comfortable about reporting their experience, for a variety of different reasons. It may also be true that we may not be able to, in every circumstance, even with Police assistance, find or explain why or how an incident occurred or who else was involved.

It is important that we have a record of the event which can be tracked and comparisons made with any other reported incidents – this way we can look for any significant trends. We can also share the nature of the incident with Police, even if the victim does not wish to be known.

The UOW Security team has an excellent working relationship with Police which allows us to closely monitor any events external to the campus that may give cause to alerting the campus community about something that impacts upon everyone’s safety.

From this perspective, it becomes absolutely imperative that any student or staff member who experience a situation where they feel uncomfortable or unsafe, either on campus or in the vicinity of the campus, should report to UOW Security their experience.

A victim’s report will always be taken seriously, investigated and recorded. When warranted, Police will be involved.

If reports of such events are not made, then it becomes difficult to adequately monitor the safety of the campus community. If there is any behaviour by any individual in our open campus environment left unchecked, then there is some risk that someone else in the community could be impacted on a future occasion by the unknown perpetrator.

Reporting to Security:

Reporting an emergency, or that you are in trouble, need first aid or need any sort of assistance, use the Emergency button, First Aid call button or the Help Call button on the free SafeZone App.

For more information: SafeZone
Alternatively use the following telephone numbers:

For routine matters, safety escorts or to report a crime call UOW Security on:

02 4221 4555 or Ext: 4555.

For Emergencies, call UOW Security on:

02 4221 4900 or Ext: 4900.

Calls to 4221 4555 or 4221 4900 are all supported by our third party call centre, which means they will be answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Note: Using SafeZone, you will go directly to the Security Officers on duty every time as the Officers get all SafeZone alerts on their iPhone wherever they are across campus. With (GPS) location services activated, Security can see your location straightaway.

Alternatively go to the Security Office on Campus or approach a uniformed Security Officer for help.

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