**Code of Confidentiality**

All members of the immediate Welfare Team, Welfare Support Team organisations and members are all bound by a strict code of confidentiality.

**Code of Confidentiality**

*“All welfare work conducted within the Army is conducted within a code of confidentiality as the effectiveness of welfare provision is directly related to the trust in which it is held by those who may* *need to use it. The core element of this code is the legal and professional obligation not to disclose ‘private information’ about another person without that person’s consent. Private information includes the fact that an individual is using a welfare service. It can no longer be assumed that a soldier will accept that the Army needs to know about matters that a civilian would regard as private. There are, however, exceptional circumstances when information can be disclosed, and in some circumstances must be, even without the individual s consent, and these exceptions are:*

* *When there is risk of harm to the individual or others.*
* *In order to report or prevent a criminal act.*
* *If there is likely to be a contravention of military law.*
* *If there is, or likely to be, a breach of security.*
* *If soldiers are no longer able to carry out their duty.*

*Examples of those to whom disclosures can be made are: CoC, RMP, Civilian Police, Social Services and Medical Services etc.*

*Whilst soldiers and their families have the same rights to confidentiality as civilians, a notable exception is the situation in which soldiers are no longer able to carry out their Service duty. Confidentiality is only to be breached in such circumstances when there is clear evidence of a detrimental impact on operational effectiveness.”*

***This code of confidentiality is strongly adhered to by the RMAS Welfare Office.***

For further information on the code of confidentiality please refer to AGAI Volume 3, Chapter 81 , Army Welfare Policy or speak to the RMAS Welfare Office.