



# Health Care Needs

(Last DET Update: 04/09/14)

First Developed May 2015

Reviewed: September & November 2015

February, April & June 2016

## 1. Background and information

### Rationale

- Under DET's duty of care obligations to students, schools are required to ensure all students feel safe and supported at school. This includes supporting and responding to the health care needs of all students.
- Government schools have a responsibility to provide equitable access to education and respond to diverse student needs, including health care needs.
- Research and evidence suggests intervention to address a health care need at early stages is critical to mitigate life-long disadvantages, particularly for students in their early years.
- For students with health support needs, schools must ensure continuity and relevance of the education program and design curriculum that allows delivery and assessment for students who need to:
  - transition between hospital, home and school
  - attend school part-time or episodically
  - support the student's connection to school, including developing and maintaining social networks.
- The school retains responsibility for the student's curriculum when they are in hospital or recuperating at home. Hospital based education staff may also assist the school in supporting the student.
- The Health Care Needs Policy is a pre-requisite to other health related policies.

### Further information may be obtained from:

Reference:

[www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/healthcareneeds.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/spag/health/Pages/healthcareneeds.aspx)

Please refer also to the school's *Duty of Care Policy*, the *Anaphylaxis Management Policy*, the *Asthma Management Policy*, *Blood-borne Viruses*, *Epilepsy* and the *Diabetes Management Policies*.

## 2. Carranballac College Health Care Needs Policy (October 2016)

### Purpose

- To support and respond to the health care needs of students.
- To ensure students feel safe and supported at school on enrolment or when a health care need is identified.
- To develop and maintain clear plans and processes to support the student's health care needs.
- To promote student engagement in learning.
- To provide equitable access to education.
- To respond to diverse student needs, including health care.
- To ensure Carranballac P-9 College complies with legislation and DET policy.

### Implementation

- To achieve these goals, the school will:
  - provide short or long term first aid planning
  - provide supervision for safety
  - provide routine health and personal care support
  - provide complex medical care support if required and resourced
  - make local decisions
  - create innovative solutions to meet all students' needs
  - anticipate, plan and manage health support
- The school will have a Student Health Support Plan, or other specific health management plan (such as an Anaphylaxis Management Plan), for a student with an identified health need, based on medical advice from the student's medical/health practitioner and consultation with the student and parents/guardians.
- The school will have policies and procedures available to the school community for planning for and supporting student health at school and the management of medication.
- The school will provide training for school staff in basic first aid to meet specific student health needs not covered under basic first aid training, such as managing asthma or for excursions or camps and to meet complex medical care needs.
- The school will communicate openly with students and families about successes achieved, development and changes and health and educational concerns.
- The school will plan for most students to attend school camps and special events and take part in physical activities at school.
- As part of the enrolment process, with due respect for student privacy, a record of student health needs and medication required will be recorded on CASES21.
- The school will ensure planning to meet students' health care needs follows the four stages outlined in the Procedures.

### Ratification and Review

- This policy will be reviewed as part of the school's three-year review cycle or if guidelines change.

This policy was ratified by School Council on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016

## **3. Carranballac College Health Care Needs Procedures**

### **3.1 Before Enrolment**

The Principal will inform parents/guardians about the school's policy for supporting student health prior to or on enrolment i.e. provide a copy of the policy.

### **3.2 When a Need is Identified**

The Principal will advise parents/guardians that they have a responsibility to provide to the school accurate information about a student's:

- routine health care support needs, such as supervision for medication
- personal care support needs, such as assistance with personal hygiene, continence care, eating and drinking, transfers and positioning, and use of health-related equipment
- emergency care needs, such as predictable emergency first aid associated with an allergic reaction, seizure management, anaphylaxis, or diabetes
- any changes to the above.

The school will store information on CASES21.

When information is being collected the Principal will ensure that parents/guardians and students are informed about how their personal information will be used and who it might be disclosed to.

### **3.3 Planning Process**

It is essential that the student's medical/health practitioner provides a medical advice form that guides the planning and details the student's medical condition and the medication required at school.

The Principal or nominee will organise a meeting with the student, parents/guardians and other school staff, to discuss the plan outlining the recommended emergency, routine health and personal care support for the student.

The plan should be developed shortly after the school has received the medical advice from the student's medical/health practitioner. If there is a time delay between receiving this advice and developing the plan, the school may put in place an interim support plan containing an agreed strategy, such as calling an ambulance.

Questions to consider:

- Is it necessary to provide the support during the school day?
- How can the recommended support be provided in the simplest manner, with minimal interruption to the education and care program?
- Who should provide the support?
- Is this support complex and/or invasive?
- Is there staff training required?
- Are there any facilities issues that need to be addressed?
- How can the support be provided in a way that respects dignity, privacy, comfort and safety and enhances learning?
- Are there any care and learning plans that should be completed for students with personal care support?

### **3.4 Monitoring and Review**

Plans should be reviewed:

- when updated information is received from the student's medical or health practitioner

- when the school, student or parents/guardians have concerns regarding the support level and needs
- if there is a change in support needs

The advice received from the medical or health practitioner is reviewed annually unless it is agreed that the annual review of the plan is not required. In this case, it is up to the Principal's discretion whether to request updated medical information.